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East Asia Southeast Asia

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Khun Sa To Benefit From Thai Logging Enterprise

*91P30128A Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai
25-31 Mar 91 p 8*

["Intelligence" Column]

[Text] After months of trying, the B and F Company of Bunsawat Duangchai-ek has finally succeeded in getting a logging concession in Burma opposite Chiang Mai's Mae Ai

District. Other concessionaires' operations will be extended to the banks of the Salween River. The significant partnerships include Phichai Phuchareon and Winai Misi. These are former loggers in the Pa Kariang [Karen Forests] area. It is known that B and F has contracted with "Sia Noi's" company—one of five big Mae Sot loggers—to cut a road about 10 km long in order to extract the timber from Mae Ai District. The party receiving the concession fees is the Shan State Restoration Council (the new name of Khun Sa's TRC) [Tai Revolutionary Council].

COALITION GOVERNMENT OF DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

Gem Mining in Khmer Rouge Zone on Thai Border

91SE0203A Bangkok DAILY NEWS in Thai
12, 13 Mar 91

["As the World Turns" column by Sunthon Chawansin]

[12 Mar 91 p 10]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Today, the chance of finding a gemstone weighing several grams in Trat or Chanthaburi Provinces is just a "daydream." This is why people in this profession have had to look for new places to mine gemstones in order to support themselves.

As it happens, the gemstone beds found in Trat and Chanthaburi Provinces stretch all the way to the Cambodian-Thai border. Comparing the target of these treasure hunters to a river, the headwaters are located deep in the jungles of Cambodia.

As for how the gems mined in Thailand compare to those mined in Cambodia, there is no difference between them in terms of quality. [passage omitted]

As stated above, it is becoming difficult to find gemstones in those two provinces. Thus, gemstone miners have had to move farther afield and search for new sources on the Cambodian side of the border. About five or six years ago, they secretly began mining gemstones in prohibited areas along the Thai-Cambodian border. The reason for calling these "prohibited areas" is that on 8 December 1981, according to an order of the National Security Council:

"People are prohibited from engaging in mining activities in the Kluak, Sam Ngam, and Khrua Wai mountains in Chanthaburi Province and in Bo Rai District in areas within 10 km of the Thai-Cambodian border, with the exception of the 111.56 square km where permission has been granted..."

National security was cited as the reason for this. Another reason was that this area is a very dangerous area. There had been fighting in this area, and it was believed that the Khmer Rouge, who controlled the area on the Cambodian side of the border, had mined the area in order to resist and block the enemy forces.

But those "looking for treasure" did not obey that order, saying that they had to mine gemstones in order to survive.

[13 Mar 91 p 10]

[Excerpts] "No matter how high the mountains or deep the jungle, I will go there."

I want to assure you that that statement was not made by "RSC." Rather, that is the feeling of the "treasure

hunters." When this horde of treasure hunters began moving up to the Thai-Cambodian border in Chanthaburi Province, they moved into Ban Phak Kat in Pong Nam Ron District opposite the town of Pailin in Cambodia. Just the name of that town is enough to tell you that it is famous for its gemstones. (Don't compare this with Kamphaengphet, Phetburi, or Phetchabun in Thailand, because they are not the same.)

In Trat Province, these "diggers" have moved up to the border in Bo Rai District at Ban Ma Nao, Ban Pa-ah, and Ban Mamuang, which are all located near the Thai-Cambodian border. Even though there are more gemstones in this area than in the other area, the thing that these "diggers" don't want to unearth is "metal" or "mixed metal." When people do discover these, they often lose an arm, leg, or their life. The Khmer Rouge have planted a variety of "explosives" inside Thailand in order to prevent attacks by enemy forces. But this danger has not stopped the "advance" of this army of "diggers." If they die, they die. But those who aren't killed this way may die from starvation. Thus, they have to risk being killed in order not to die. It's confusing, isn't it!

During the past several years, the fighting in Cambodia has changed now that the foreign forces have withdrawn from Cambodia. Instead of a war against foreign invaders, there is now a civil war going on there. The situation seems to be improving, and there may even be a cease-fire and peace talks. The fighting around Pailin has subsided, which means that there is a greater likelihood that the "diggers" will cross into Cambodia in search of gemstones. The number of people sneaking across the border into Cambodia in search of gemstones has increased greatly. The number already exceeds 10,000.

Most of these people are from the plateau area and the northern region of Thailand. Very few of these people are from Chanthaburi or Trat Provinces. Most of the people who live in these two provinces earn a good living from farming, and some earn a living by buying gemstones. They don't mine the gemstones themselves. They view the income earned from gemstones as a "supplement" only. [passage omitted]

Most of these miners are men. But they have to be strong. They must have small physiques, like the half-man, half-woman men in Bangkok. They are not to be trifled with, because they lack quality.

About four or five close friends join together with an initial investment of about 3,000-5,000 baht, which is used to buy supplies. These supplies are supposed to last at least 15 days. They then cross the border, where they are checked by Khmer Rouge soldiers. Usually, they know these soldiers. The Khmer Rouge soldiers profit from these miners, which is only fair. Because we are taking resources from their country, it's only fair that they should derive some profit from this. The amount demanded is not fixed. Newcomers may have to pay

2,000-3,000 baht in cash. If they fail to find any gemstones, they can't ask for their money back. Those miners familiar to the soldiers may not have to pay up front. They can pay later if they find any gemstones.

To travel to the mining sites, there are no vehicles. The miners all have to walk. They sometimes have to walk through the jungle for several days. Most of them carry a backpack like a soldier, with the average load weighing about 20 kg. If they don't want to carry this load, they can hire a porter, that is, a Khmer Rouge soldier, who will charge them 100 baht per kg. That's a huge sum, right?

As for the risks involved, from what the "yellow diggers" (almost all of them have malaria) have said, their fellow Thais pose a greater danger than the Khmer troops, who rarely bother people. Sometimes, when a person finds a beautiful gemstone, a fellow miner may kill him to get the stone. Sometimes, people are killed in the bottom of the hole, and sometimes they are killed on the way back to Thailand. If a person is killed or dies there and his relatives want to have his body sent back to Thailand for burial, they must first obtain permission from the Khmer Rouge troops. These troops have a monopoly on transporting bodies back to the border. They charge 20,000-30,000 baht per body, depending on how well they knew the person.

From a commercial standpoint, these miners have just enough money to live on from one day to the next, because every time they invest money to mine for gemstones there, it doesn't mean that they will find gemstones. Some return empty-handed, and those who do must hire themselves out for awhile in order to earn some money to buy more supplies. If they fail two or three times, they will "find themselves deep in debt." Then, if they do manage to find some gemstones, almost all the money that they earn goes to repay their debts. Usually, they have just enough left to buy more supplies and pay a bribe to the Khmer Rouge soldiers to let them back into Cambodia. This is a never-ending cycle. Moreover, not all of those who are lucky become millionaires. Usually, when they get some money, they spend it all on luxuries to compensate for all the trouble that they have experienced. When their money is gone, they cross the mountains into Cambodia again.

In view of all this, the question is, why do they risk death to go there? The simple answer is, if they cross into Cambodia, they at least have a chance of staying alive. But if they stay in Thailand, they will starve for sure.

Resistance Manuevers, Plans on Eve of Cease-Fire
BK0105015591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
1 May 91 p 1

[Excerpt] Aranyaprathet—On the eve of the first cease-fire in 12 years, Khmer Rouge soldiers and Phnom Penh government forces were still fighting.

Informed resistance and Thai military sources said fighting took place in Ban Dong Arab, Koup Thom and Sangke Yar, 6-10 kilometres from the Thai border.

Phnom Penh forces fired more than 100 rocket rounds at the resistance forces during the 30-minute fighting, said the sources, adding that no casualty report was available.

A Phnom Penh officer, Lt Pan Suwan, who is in charge of security at a black market in Poipet, said yesterday his troops were ordered to be on alert in their barracks despite the ceasefire, due to come into effect today.

He said he did not trust the Khmer Rouge who are holding out just south of Poipet.

The sources said a Khmer Rouge divisional commander, Sok Pheap, had a meeting with his regiment and battalion commanders which began on Sunday and continued until yesterday, reportedly to brief them of the agreement by the four Cambodian factions for the ceasefire.

A Khmer People's National Liberation Front officer also said he had heard from a radio broadcast about the ceasefire, but had not been officially informed by his superiors.

He charged that just a few days ago, Phnom Penh soldiers lobbed rockets into a refugee camp, killing three civilians.

Phnom Penh, he added, also bans traders from crossing the border into Thailand.

Meanwhile Prince Norodom Sihanouk's guerrilla army said its field commanders have been ordered to respect the temporary ceasefire in Cambodia starting at midnight last night.

All combatants have said they would honour the truce but there is no means of monitoring the ceasefire.
[passage omitted]

Noncommunists May Look to China if U.S. Cuts Aid

BK0804015391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
8 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] Faced with the prospect of reduced U.S. aid this year and a total cutoff next year, the Cambodian non-communist resistance [NCR] has been pondering alternative sources of support and reviewing their operations in Bangkok.

Sources said U.S. funds to the non-communist resistance stopped at the end of January, causing their offices in Bangkok to "tighten their belts".

The aid funding stopped since January 31 and the situation has been really bad, pretty rough," said one diplomatic source.

The Sihanoukists, for instance, had been dipping into their savings and whatever contingency funds they had to keep their office running while trimming costs and expenses, the source said.

Resistance sources said it was possible their offices could be relocated to the border.

Diplomatic sources said the U.S. decision to reduce this year's aid package to the NCRs and cancel it next year could have political and diplomatic repercussions.

The U.S. Congress had already appropriated U.S.\$7 million dollars in non-lethal aid to the NCR.

Whether another \$13 million was approved and appropriated depended on how two crucial congressional hearings turned out in Washington this week.

Although \$7 million had been appropriated, the U.S. administration had not released the funds because of growing criticism and allegations that the NCR had been cooperating militarily.

Prospects of reduced U.S. aid meant the NCR would have to change the way they operate and seek alternative sources of funding, one diplomatic source said, adding that one option was to operate from the Thai-Cambodian border.

The sources said a considerable portion of U.S. non-lethal aid was used to operate the Sihanoukist and KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] offices in Bangkok.

One source said the operating expenses for the KPNLF and Sihanoukist offices in Bangkok was about nine million baht a month.

China was one country which might provide an alternative source of support, the source said, as were ASEAN member countries.

Diplomatic sources said the manner in which US non-lethal aid was spent had no direct effect on the resistance's military capability.

But if U.S. aid was cut, political effects would certainly be felt.

Originally it was thought the U.S. decision would effect only the Sihanoukists, but it now appeared that the KPNLF also would be affected following reports that the faction was cooperating with the Khmer Rouge.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Armed Forces had repeatedly denied cooperating militarily with the Khmer Rouge.

A loss of U.S. aid could effect the "state of mind" of the resistance fighters, the diplomatic source said.

Some diplomats of countries supporting the resistance said the decision could lead to a situation "down the

road" where the United States might have to choose between the Phnom Penh regime or the Khmer Rouge.

If the NCR was weakened and was no longer a factor in the Cambodian equation, the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh government could dominate the scenario.

Under such a situation, the United States would have to choose between the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh regime. Choosing the Phnom Penh regime would be easier for the United States to do, rather than backing the Khmer Rouge.

Diplomatic sources said the U.S. move could also push resistance groups closer to China, particularly the Sihanoukists.

The KPNLF could face bigger problems because it had never enjoyed close ties with China, one source said.

In a March 29 open letter to U.S. congressmen, the Sihanoukists again denied cooperating with the Khmer Rouge—either strategically or tactically.

The resistance group loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk said the move would be the "first time the U.S. Congress has cut aid from a non-communist country in order to support a communist regime."

69 Kompong Cham Officials Said To Defect

BK1104024291 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 10 Apr 91

[Summary] "According to a report from Chamka Leu District, on 19 and 20 March, 69 village and commune administrators who have been forced to serve the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets in (O Veal), Trapeang Russei, Trapeang Lpeov, and (O Si) villages in Speu Commune and some other villages in Chey Yo Commune, Chamka Leu District, Kompong Cham Province, turned themselves in to our people's great national union forces and the national council of Chamka Leu District.

"These 69 administrators pledged not to serve the Vietnamese aggressors any longer and asked for permission to join our people in the struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors and their lackeys—the traitorous puppets."

This clearly shows that the Vietnamese aggressors and race exterminators and their lackeys have become extremely isolated from the Cambodian people. Moreover, even the administrators who have been forced to serve them have refused to do this any longer. This also shows that our cadres and combatants on Kompong Cham battlefield have effectively carried out military and political activities.

STATE OF CAMBODIA

Report on Dry-Season Battles in Pailin

*BK2604054491 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 1300 GMT 25 Apr 91*

[Text] During the 1990-91 dry season the armed forces of Ratanamondol District, Pailin, Battambang Province, launched many counteroffensives against infiltration attempts by the Polpotist bandits, inflicting most shameful defeats on them. As a result, 357 bandits were immobilized by our armed forces.

In the same counteroffensives, the district armed forces killed 30 Polpotist bandits on the spot, wounded 53 others, and seized 23 assorted weapons and more than 20,000 rounds of assorted ammunition as well as a quantity of war materiel.

Quarterly Returnee Totals in Kompong Thom Province

*BK2204054691 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0349 GMT 22 Apr 91*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 22—In the first week of April 17 enemy soldiers deserted their ranks and reported to the authorities in Kompong Svay District, Kompong Thom Province, 150 km north of Phnom Penh, bringing along nine guns and a quantity of other war means.

In the first three months of this year, the province received 516 enemy troops, including 77 Sonsannians, 191 Polpotists and 248 ex-Molinakans [Sihanoukists], with 296 firearms of various calibers and other war materials.

112 Soldiers in 286th Division Flee

*BK2204021491 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic
Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 21 Apr 91*

["News commentary": "112 Fraternal Cambodian Soldiers Deserted Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors and Fled Back Home"]

[Excerpt] Between 1 and 2 April, 112 fraternal Cambodian soldiers of the 286th Division in Samraong District of Oddar Meanchey Province deserted Vietnamese enemy aggressors and fled back home. [passage omitted]

Fertilizer Shortage To Affect Rice Production

*BK1704153291 Phnom Penh SPK in English
1045 GMT 17 Apr 91*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 17—The "Mekong" Export and Import Company has imported some 2,000 tons of chemical fertilizer for the Ministry of Agriculture to supply to peasants in this dry-season rice cultivation.

Mekong is one of the private companies in Phnom Penh set up after the promulgation of the state's new policy on economic reform.

This year, Cambodia plans to export 30,000 cubic metres of timber in return for some 10,000 tons of fertilizer. However, this volume of fertilizer still falls short of the demand for both the monsoon and dry seasons, as compared with the average yearly consumption of 30,000 tons.

For the dry-season alone, the peasants need about 10,000 tons of fertilizer, but so far the Ministry of Agriculture has sold them only 2,000 tons, or two-thirds of the fertilizer volume the ministry had in store early this year.

The Ministry of Agriculture said the short supply of fertilizer to peasants would affect rice productivity in the whole country.

From 1979, the first year of the country's liberation, to 1985, Cambodia received good amounts of chemical fertilizer as humanitarian aid. Since then it has contacted the Soviet Union for the exchange of farm products for fertilizer.

Yield of Dry-Season Rice Cultivation

*BK1504132491 Phnom Penh SPK in English
0419 GMT 15 Apr 91*

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 15—By mid-March this year, peasants throughout the country had grown 106,000 hectares of rice, fulfilling 66 percent of the target for the current dry-season rice cultivation in the country.

The peasants are expected to put 160,000 hectares under rice this dry season to make up for the poor harvest of monsoon rice due to unfavourable weather. However, only four provinces (Kandal, Pey Veng, Takeo, and Kompong Cham) excelled in the dry-season rice cropping as they are located along the Mekong River which gives enough water for the cultivation.

According to a report by the Ministry of Agriculture, Takeo Province has so far planted 35,600 hectares of rice, or 86 percent of the plan, and Prey Veng 17,800 hectares, half of the plan.

During the same period, the riverine localities put nearly 40,000 hectares under subsidiary food and industrial crops, especially maize, cassava, beans, and tobacco.

As far as surplus rice sale to the state is concerned, in the same period, the peasants sold 79,000 tons of paddy, attaining only 20 percent of the yearly target. The

ministry said that the figure was 50 percent lower than the corresponding period last year as the monsoon rice harvest this year was poor.

The biggest rice sales have been registered in the north-western provinces of Siem Reap and Kompong Thom with 12,900 tons and 11,000 tons respectively. Both

achieved around 40 percent of the yearly target. The provinces of Kampot and Kompong Cham fulfilled 30 percent of the target.

Of the purchased paddy, some 69,000 tons have been moved to warehouses.

POLITICAL

Rudini Discusses Political Deregulation Issue

91SE0189A Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN
in Indonesian 16 Mar 91 p 16

[Text] Minister of Internal Affairs Rudini has called for the rumor concerning political deregulation not to be kept alive any longer, recalling that the term and its purpose are not clear, with the result that it has given rise to confusion and questions in the minds of lay people. He also proposed that the term political deregulation be replaced by a general term that will be more easily comprehended by the people.

Rudini made this proposal to reporters in Jakarta on Friday, after he had formally brought to a close the Communication and Consultation Forum (Forkomkon) of the Department of Internal Affairs and the Central BP-7 (Body for the Development of Education in the Implementation of Orientation in the Full and Total Comprehension and Application of the Pancasila [pancasila—the five pillars of the state ideology]), with the head of the Social-Political Directorate and the head of the All-Indonesia First-Level Regional BP-7's.

He said that it would be better if we did not talk about this issue, because he felt sorry for the people. "It would be better for us to use a clear, general term," he said.

He gave an example: In economic deregulation, the intent and the area that is affected by the change were clear. "I myself understand the meaning of the term deregulation and the meaning of the term political, but I wish to know what is meant by political deregulation," said the most senior figure in internal affairs.

According to Rudini, we are already following a certain system, and consequently it is necessary to ask once again, which part of the system is it that is going to be deregulated? If, for example, there are those who desire a change in the Government Regulation (PP), then we must be clear as to which part is to be changed and what the nature of the change will be.

"Or if, for example, there is someone who wishes to see another organization added to the social-political forces, and if this is to be included in deregulation, why, just say so—we want one more [organization]," said the Minister for Internal Affairs.

He said that if nowadays there are only three social-political organizations, that is, the PPP [Partai Persatuan Pembangunan "Development Unity Party"], Golkar, and the PDI [Partai Demokrasi Indonesia], this is because the relevant statute mentions these three. This statute owes its existence to a decision made by the People's Consultative Council (MPR), while the decision made by the MPR derives from the consensus of the people. "Now then, if somebody wants to change the statute, it is the people who have the right to change it. I myself only implement this statute, and if someone

wants to change the statute, it must be done by means of the applicable procedure," he said. (W-4)

Editorial Decries Corruption Problem

91SE0189B Jakarta SUARA PEMBARUAN
in Indonesian 19 Mar 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Corruption Makes Us Apprehensive"]

[Text] Opportunities for the occurrence of corruption still exist. But the government is persisting in its determination to further upgrade the surveillance of, and the measures to be taken against, the misuse of state finances in the future. This was emphasized by Vice President Sudharmono, LLB, after recently presiding over the 1990/1991 Meeting for the Coordination of Surveillance.

The vice president stated that losses by the state during budget year 1990/91 which resulted from the misuse of state funds totaled about one quintillion rupiah, including the Bank Duta case, which involved as much as 800 billion rupiah. The ways of misusing state funds do not differ very much from the ways utilized in the past [before budget year 1990/91], for example, in the form of fictitious disbursements (the favorite method). For instance, cases involving lists of the Component Parts of or Items Essential to a Development Project (DIP), where it becomes obvious that there was no project once the funds had been realized [that is, had been pocketed by the corruptors].

No further details were given concerning the volume of cases of the misuse of state finances during budget year 1990/91 compared with the previous year, that is, whether there was a decrease, or indeed an increase, in the number of cases. There was also no explanation as to whether the total amount of government moneys that were embezzled was more or less than during the preceding years. And so far it is not known how much of the embezzled funds were able to be recovered.

Nevertheless, we very much appreciate the various efforts that have been made by the government up to now in safeguarding state funds and in eliminating (or "fighting") corruptors—especially considering the judgment that the implementation of functional surveillance, close surveillance, as well as surveillance carried out by the public, have produced results. Also, the integrity and working coordination of colleagues in the surveillance apparatus have shown improvement.

Meanwhile, according to the vice president, the misuse of government property for private gain that was most frequently reported by the public in letters addressed to Post Office Box 5000 (TP-5000) was that engaged in by Category II agencies (40.84 percent) and those of Category III (35.26 percent). These comprised village agencies, administrative districts just above the village level, subdistricts, regional offices (Kanwil), second-level regions, autonomous bureaus, section heads, and heads of vertical agencies. On the basis of the above-mentioned data, it is evident that there were not many officials

belonging to the second echelon and higher who were targets of reports received by way of TP-5000.

Although there were not many reports concerning higher echelon officials, the above data do nevertheless cause great concern. This is because this level of misuse of power and of state funds has a direct bearing on the vital interests of the public, that is, on the implementation of development in the field, and vis-a-vis citizens who live in villages, administrative districts above the village level, subdistricts, and so on.

It is precisely this reality that must be carefully investigated and examined. It is necessary to determine whether the two above-mentioned types of surveillance (functional and close) are less than stable in those line agencies that are directly connected with the implementation of development in the field and with the public. Or are they not good enough at "playing the game"? On the other hand, it is also possible that the people have become increasingly aware of their rights and are courageous enough to fight for their interests.

Whatever the cause, what is clear is that the reality of the situation described above gives rise to a great deal of apprehension. Because the civil servants charged with carrying out government policies in the field are the spear point of development. They are not there just as a means of extending the reach of the bureaucracy, but are at the same time models, leaders, and protectors, and

must therefore always orient themselves to the interests of the public. This position of theirs is precisely what invites a very high risk, by which is meant that people quickly adopt an attitude of antipathy when a leader who is respected and who is a model is discovered to have indulged in a misuse of power or in corruption. In fact, we realize that development will succeed only if every tier of society participates actively and positively in the process.

Another facet that we wish to touch on in connection with the surveillance of and the fight against corruption is the logical consequence of functional surveillance and close surveillance. What we have in mind is that the parties against whom action is taken should not only be those guilty of corruption; the immediate superior of the perpetrator concerned must also be brought to account. This is because corruption occurs, in general, as the result of a lack of supervision. And on the basis of the result of interrogations in court, it has been proved that corrupt acts constitute a certain process—therefore it is not difficult to take appropriate action if supervisory procedures have been strictly applied.

Because, as was stated by Oka Mahendra, LLB, a member of the Indonesian Parliament of the Functional Development Faction (FKP), corruption is like a turtle. If it is struck, the turtle stops for a bit, but just as soon as it is left alone, it will continue on its way (PEM-BARUAN, 18 March 1991).

Ambassador Views Mekong Development Prospects

*91SE0202A Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai
11-17 Mar 91 p 49*

[Interview with Lao People's Democratic Republic Ambassador to Thailand Bounkeut Sangsomsak, date and place not given]

[Text] [KHAO PHISSET] In the past, was there ever an agreement to the effect that if a country wants to use the Mekong River for some project it must first obtain approval from the other countries that use this river?

[Bounkeut] I can't remember the exact principles. But from talking with the Lao Mekong River Committee, it is my understanding that a treaty or agreement was signed. And that is the case according to international principles.

[KHAO PHISSET] If Thailand and Laos cooperate in building the Pha Mong dam to block the Mekong River, will they have to request permission from other countries?

[Bounkeut] From what I know, initial studies on this project were done several years ago. This project is still in the survey stage. Construction has not gotten underway. As for what effects this will have, I have not studied this in detail. But I know that Vietnam is unhappy about this project. If this dam is built, about 40,000 Thais will have to move. This will have a great effect on people's lives and on the environment. These are the problems involved in building this dam. The committee studying this project has not yet concluded what effects this project will have on Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and Cambodia. But in view of the fact that 40,000 people will have to move, I think that this will have a major impact. The higher the water level, the more people who will have to move.

[KHAO PHISSET] If the Pha Mong dam is built, Thailand will buy all the electricity generated. Has an agreement ever been reached on how much money Thailand will pay Laos?

[Bounkeut] That has not been discussed. All that has been studied is the importance of the dam and its efficiency. The Mekong River Committee has not issued any stipulations concerning the buying or selling of electricity.

[KHAO PHISSET] What about the Nam Thoen dam?

[Bounkeut] The Nam Thoen dam is a medium-sized project. Nam Thoen 1 can produce 1,000 megawatts of electricity, and Nam Thoen 2 can produce 600 megawatts. The World Bank is interested in both projects. Initial feasibility studies are now being made, and preparations are being made to submit the results of the studies. Laos now has seven dam construction projects. Thailand will purchase 80 percent of the electricity

generated. Laos will use the rest. We will generate 8,000 megawatts in 50 years [as published]. That will be good.

[KHAO PHISSET] Do you think it will be worthwhile to produce electricity and then sell it to Thailand?

[Bounkeut] This is an economic matter. We have to look at several things. First, we have to see what effect this will have in terms of people having to move their homes and places of work. Second, we have to see what effect the construction of these dams will have on the environment. Third, with respect to investment, once we begin generating electricity, both Vietnam and Malaysia could buy electricity from us. But that has not been discussed. I have mentioned this, but Malaysia has not shown any interest in buying electricity from us. But if this is convenient, Malaysia may want to buy from us. Laos will send the electricity to Thailand. If Malaysia wants to buy electricity, it can get it through Thailand. We can easily send electricity anywhere, including Vietnam and Malaysia. We could even send electricity to southern China, because our power center is located in the northern part of the country. We can send electricity to many places. The important thing is whether we will be able to meet the demand. Thailand attaches most importance to this, and Thai electricity officials have said that Thailand needs 1,000 megawatts.

[KHAO PHISSET] In paying for the electricity, will Thailand pay in baht or dollars?

[Bounkeut] I think that it should pay in hard currency, that is, dollars. Last month, a Lao delegation visited Bangkok in order to discuss the matter of raising the price of electricity.

[KHAO PHISSET] Does that mean that in the past, we have been paying too little for the electricity purchased from Laos?

[Bounkeut] We think that the price is low. We are now holding talks in order to ask that the price be raised a little. As for how much the price will be increased, we have asked for time to discuss this among ourselves first. The talks have not been concluded. Laos has proposed a price ceiling, and Thailand wants to bargain. We will probably be able to reach an agreement on some price.

Authorities Okay Thai-Lao Tourist Agency

*91SE0202B Bangkok DAO SIAM in Thai 16 Mar 91
p 7*

[Text] The Chiang Rai Provincial Public Relations Office received a report from Mr. Woranit Songsawat, the district officer in Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai Province, stating that a private Thai-Lao tourist agency has now opened tourist services between the border transit point in Chiang Khong District and Bo Keo Province in Laos and Luang Prabang and Vientiane. Tourists can now travel all the way to China, Vietnam, and Cambodia. In this new era of tourism, the Lao

Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Tourism has given the green light to the Thai and Lao private sector in Bo Keo Province.

As for the details of the opening of these tourist sites, Mr. Woranit said that Thailand and Laos last year agreed to open a border transit point along the border between Chiang Khong District and Bo Keo Province to serve as a trade and tourist point. But tourism still had several limitations. Sometimes, tourism came to a halt. This time, the Lao Government has granted an official permit. There is an agreement between the private sectors to the effect that, to send tourists to Bo Keo, the agency must send at least seven tourists (there are no limitations on private travel). And if the agency wants to send people to Luang Prabang, Champasak, or Vientiane City, there must be at least 25 people in the group. Laos will provide places to stay, river and land transportation, and meals for a price of 7,000 baht per week. Foreign tourists must have a passport, and they must obtain a visa from the Lao Embassy in Bangkok. They should state that they want to pass through the Chiang Khong-Bo Keo border transit point. Those people with passports will be allowed to travel throughout the country as stipulated by the travel agency.

Those tourists who do not use the services of the tourist agency can travel to Bo Keo Province if they request a border transit permit from the Chiang Khong District headquarters. They must pay a border transit fee of 50 baht, which will be collected by Lao officials. It is thought that the opening of these tourist spots will result in the opening of additional support facilities in Chiang Khong District, which will be needed to serve the increased number of tourists.

1990 Foreign Investment, Trade Reported

Projects in Vientiane

91SE0216A Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao
23 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Last Year There Were 22 Foreign Investment Projects in Vientiane"]

[Text] According to a report by the foreign relations committee of Vientiane Municipality, last year foreign companies invested in 22 projects related to business, trade, and production in Vientiane Municipality. The investment amounted to more than \$8 million.

The report stated that there were eight projects for developing industrial production for export, seven projects for developing agriculture and forestry production and seven projects for developing services and trade. At the end of the year Vientiane Municipality agreed to cooperate with the PRC in investing to build a modern textile factory. And the company which combined the import-export trade with processing agricultural products felt that its business and trade relations

with foreign companies in Vientiane Municipality during the past year had been very successful and would steadily improve.

Aid, Investment Distribution

91SE0216B Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao
2 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "International Organizations Provide \$10 Million in Aid To Develop the City's Economy"]

[Text] In past years the Vientiane Municipality has been able to get \$13 million in aid from various international organizations to develop its economy and society, and \$10.3 million of this was in gratis aid; \$3.8 million was invested in industry, \$7.5 million was invested in communications and transportation, \$1.3 million was invested in agriculture, \$312,000 was invested in public health, and \$72,000 was invested in education and sport.

In addition, foreign companies proposed investing in 39 projects in Laos. At present 28 of these projects have received a total of \$10.3 million in investments of which \$3.5 million was supplied by the Lao side. These projects include one agricultural project, six industrial projects for processing wood and rattan, eight projects for making clothing, six trade projects, and seven hotel and restaurant projects.

Oudomxai Trade with SRV Province

91SE0216C Vientiane PASASON in Lao 11 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Trade Between Oudomxai and Ha Nam Ninh Amounted to 246 Million Kip"]

[Text] In 1990 the value of the business conducted by the joint trading company of Oudomxai and Ha Nam Ninh in the SRV, which has offices in Oudomxai Province, amounted to 246 million kip.

Exports, including sesame, coffee, and wood products, had a total value of 13 million kip. Imports, including agricultural tools, construction materials, and consumer goods, had a total value of 233 million kip.

This year the company will increase production of goods and handicrafts made of wood and rattan in order to increase foreign sales.

Savannakhet Trade Figures

91SE0216D Vientiane PASASON in Lao 18 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In 1990 Savannakhet Province Had 9 Billion Kip in Business Transactions"]

[Text] In 1990 there were 110 businesses registered in Savannakhet Province. Of these 50 were engaged in internal trade, 32 were engaged in importing and exporting, and 22 represented foreign companies. Their transactions totaled 9.108 billion kip. This was about 18.4 percent higher than in 1989. Funds involved in

foreign trade transactions totaled 5.607 billion kip. Fixed funds amounted to 2.088 billion kip, an increase of 21.5 percent. And circulating funds amounted to 3.591 billion kip, an increase of 16.64 percent.

Last year foreign trade transactions totaled \$28.83 million, of which exports totaled \$19.59 million and imports totaled \$9.23 million. In 1990 the various enterprises and import-export companies in Savannakhet Province fulfilled their obligation to the state in the amount of 3.134 billion kip, of which foreign trade supplied 3.119 billion kip. This was 53.7 percent more than the goal for the year.

Oudomxai-PRC Region Trade

91SE0216E Vientiane PASASON in Lao 27 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Oudomxai, Sipsongpanna Conduct Trade Worth 628 Million Kip"]

[Text] In 1990 trade between Oudomxai Province and the Xishuangbanna Tai Autonomous Prefecture area of China was valued at more than 628 million kip.

Oudomxai Province exports consisted primarily of wood products, forest products and zinc. Imports from China consisted of agricultural tools, construction materials and consumer goods.

Trade in this area is conducted primarily by private companies, such as Company No. 4, the Trade Development Company, and the Oudomxai Province branches of the principle trading companies. It is expected that there will be more this year.

Gratis Foreign Aid, Projects Described

Australian Erosion Control Center

91SE0217A Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao
21 Feb 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "This Year the Australian Government Will Provide More Than \$300,000 for Erosion Control"]

[Text] Reliable sources have reported that in 1991 the Australian Government will continue to provide aid gratis for erosion control in the amount of \$320,000.

These funds will be used to continue the surveying and planning for erosion control in the area from Tha Mouang to Tha Deua in Hatsaifong District in the dry season this year. Last year the Australian Government provided \$219,000 gratis for the project for erosion control at Tha Deua. Today one can see that the work in the experimental stage is ongoing and effective.

They also reported that the gratis assistance for this project from the Australian Government in 1991-1992 will amount to \$1.2 million. These funds will be under the control of the Vientiane Municipality and will be used to create benefits as intended.

Aid Receipts, Uses

91SE0217B Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao
21 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Last Five Years Laos Has Received \$900 Million in Aid"]

[Text] In the past five years the LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] has received \$961,638,000 in gratis assistance and loans from abroad. These funds have been used for agriculture, communications, industry, handicrafts, and construction. But there was no report concerning which activity received the most funds.

The report stated that foreign investment amounted to \$189,800,270. This investment took the form of investment in business under an agreement and in joint ventures or ventures by one side in various branches, such as making garments for export, agriculture, import-export businesses, hotels, tourism, making rattan, banking, advising, construction, transportation, industry, and handicrafts.

The report stated that it was expected that more people would come to invest this year than last because investors have come to trust the policies of the Lao government more. In the past a number of investors were worried and hesitant, and there were others who were intermediaries hoping to take advantage.

EEC Aid Announced

91SE0217C Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao
22 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The EEC Will Provide 700,000 in Aid to Laos for the Project To Develop Water Sources"]

[Excerpt] The EEC announced that it would provide the LPDR with \$700,000 in assistance to be used in the project for producing a plan to develop water sources throughout the country. This project is felt to be a starting point for the LPDR. The Kingdom of Thailand and the SRV already have such a project. This announcement was made at the 33d meeting of the International Commission for the Mekong River held in Luang Prabang from 4 to 7 February. In addition to this project the EEC will also provide assistance for the project to make embankments to prevent flooding. [passage omitted]

Japanese Aid, Corporate Activity

91SE0217D Vientiane VIENTIANE MAI in Lao
23 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Japanese Aid This Year Will Be 1 Billion Yen Gratis"]

[Text] Last year the government of Japan provided the LPDR with aid for many projects, especially in Vientiane Municipality with regard to the projects for the Vientiane plain, for buses and bus stations. This year

(1991) the Japanese Government will be happy to provide the Lao Government with an additional 1.074 billion yen in aid.

These funds will be used to encourage food production on the Vientiane plain. There will be projects here to grow tomatoes and cucumbers for export. This has been tried on an experimental basis with good results.

The report stated that the Kubota Company of Japan would do the work for this project. It also stated that the Asian Bank had loaned the LPDR \$28 million, of which \$25 million would be distributed to credit branches and \$3 million would be used in the Xeset electrical project.

France Aids Pharmaceutical Firm

91SE0217E Vientiane PASASON in Lao 15 Feb 91 p 2

[Report by Pouangdokson: "Military Pharmaceutical Firm"]

[Excerpts] The Friendship Pharmaceutical Firm is one of the principle enterprises of the Ministry of Defense. It was established in June 1988. Its function is to bring in pharmaceuticals, chemicals for producing pharmaceuticals and medical equipment and to distribute them. It was set up as partnership between the government and private parties. [passage omitted]

[They worked] to make the company run smoothly and efficiently. Although in the past they encountered difficulties such as state regulations controlling pharmaceuticals and the lessons they had to learn in the beginning, nevertheless the firm progressed and mastered the situation. It increased in creativity and experience. They adapted their relationship with offices, organizations and various stores both state and private to be one of equality and mutual benefits. In addition they bartered and traded with foreign firms especially in France and Vietnam. In 1990 the firm imported medical supplies from France worth 100 million kip. These goods were all distributed. Part went to state organizations such as the Senahak Department of the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior, and various hospitals in the city. Because of their efforts they fulfilled their goals in 1990. The firm was able to achieve an income of more than 100 million kip and fulfill its obligation to the budget of almost 14 million kip. It kept more than 2 million kip as a reserve and made a profit of more than 2 million kip. With this income firm officials carried out a policy of improving the salaries of cadres and workers. The average salary is 30,000 kip per person. Officials have a plan to expand cooperation with other countries in 1991. They especially plan to expand cooperation with France in pharmaceutical production and expand cooperation with the "VINAFA" Company of Vietnam in barter and trade. They plan to set up a medical examination stations in the Vientiane Municipality and to expand their distribution branches both within and outside the province as much as possible.

Swedish Help in Forest Conservation

91SE0217F Vientiane PASASON in Lao 26 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Luang Prabang Province To Use 60 million Kip To Stop Dry Field Rice Farming"]

[Text] The person responsible for the project conducting experiments in stopping slash-and-burn agriculture in Luang Prabang Province reported that in 1990 the project used 60 million kip to conduct experiments at various points in the province to stop the dry field rice farming which involved clearing forest land.

This project has received cooperation and assistance from Sweden. The SIDA organization has provided \$900,000 in assistance. This has been combined with 6.8 million kip of domestic funds. These funds were used primarily for buying technical equipment and for clearing land for paddy rice.

Swedish Project Under Local Management

91SE0217G Vientiane PASASON in Lao 26 Feb 91 p 2

[Report by Sainamkham: "The Lao-Swedish Friendship Repair Shop"]

[Excerpts] The Lao-Swedish Friendship Repair Shop was built with 122.1 million krona in assistance from the SIDA organization of Sweden. The shop was built at Sikeut in Nasaithong District of Vientiane Municipality. Construction lasted from 1978 to 1980, and shop operations began in 1981, but Swedish assistance to this shop continued until 1990 when they handed over operation of the plant to the Lao side.

[passage omitted] Mr Bounsou Simitha, the deputy director of the shop said that in 1990 after Sweden handed over operation of the shop to the Lao side, including administration, procedures and technology, the Lao side was able to administer the shop with the technical knowledge taught them by the technicians. The troublesome problem for the shop was funds. It was a large shop, but it had little in the way of funds and so shop operations ran into difficulty with regard to the market and customers. The administrative committee advised that, although they were at somewhat of a disadvantage in relation to the private sector, they could correct this by setting up a unit to seek customers. This enabled the shop to have a good source of income, and in 1990 they made a profit of 20 million kip. [passage omitted]

CIDSE Hospital in Savannakhet

91SE0217H Vientiane PASASON in Lao 1 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The Presentation Ceremony for the Phin District Hospital in Savannakhet Province"]

[Excerpt] The ceremony for presenting the Phin District Hospital in Savannakhet Province was held officially on 6 February 1991 after four years of construction.

The International Organization for Development and Solidarity (CIDSE) provided assistance for the construction of this hospital. The province provided funds as well. The total cost was 109,385 kip. The CIDSE organization provided \$64,217 in assistance. The province provided 64,433 kip. [passage omitted]

Soviet-Supported Factory

91SE0217I Vientiane PASASON in Lao 7 Mar 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Presentation Ceremony for the Lao-Soviet Friendship Joint Services Factory"]

[Excerpts] On 25 January the Lao-Soviet Friendship Joint Services Factory for the North in Luang Prabang Province held an official presentation ceremony after construction was finished according to agreement No. 84/76712 to assist Laos of 16 October 1979 between the Ministry of Defense of the LPDR and the Military General Technical Department of the Soviet Union. Construction of the basic stage lasted 12 years, from 1979 to 1991.

Then on 9 February there was a ceremony to summarize the results of 1 year, 1990, and 10 years. In addition they presented medals and commendations of various kinds to 375 officers, soldiers, and workers. Of these, 131 were

promoted, 25 received various medals, and 219 received commendations from various echelons. [passage omitted]

At present the administrative committee of this factory is assigning workers so as to continue to carry out the production plan efficiently.

French NGO Aid in Saravane

91SE0217J Vientiane PASASON in Lao 19 Feb 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Saravane Province Receives Gratis Assistance for Public Health from the Doctors Without Borders Organization of France"]

[Text] In 1990 Saravane Province received \$570,000 in gratis assistance for public health from the Doctors Without Borders organization of France.

These funds were used in the construction of 18 hospitals in the province. Of these one was a two story building. At present two have been completed.

This organization has also given Saravane Province a great deal of assistance in the form of medical equipment and medicine.

POLITICAL

Unions Support Fight for 'True' Democracy

*BK1404045691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
14 Apr 91 p 3*

[Text] State Enterprise Union leaders who claim they have received a pledge of solid support from international labour organisations yesterday pledged to join other labour movements in the country in their fight for "true" democracy in Thailand.

The unionists made the statement prior to the deliberation of two bills in the National Legislative Assembly tomorrow which would remove state enterprise unions from the Labour Relations Act—effectively dissolving the unions.

The secretary-general of the State Enterprise Labour Unions Relations Group (SELURG), Sane Tantisano, said the group was not just fighting for the survival of state enterprise unions alone but was also fighting for "a true democracy for the people".

"They're several groups of people who are very angry at the dictatorial style of rule being imposed and we could fight alongside them," Sane said.

The SELURG leaders said they consider it a basic right of the people to form labour unions. "A dissolution of the unions clearly stands to rob the people of their basic right," the state enterprise leader said.

The union leaders said they would not be fighting their battles alone as they would be backed with domestic and international support behind them.

Mr Sane said SELURG leaders have received backing from high-ranking members of the International Confederation of Free Trade Union.

"We expect to get their formal support and both the Government and the National Peace-keeping Council shouldn't ignore this," Sane said.

The ICFTU is a private labour organisation to which the Labour Congress of Thailand and the Thai Trade Union Congress are affiliated. The body could file a formal complaint against Thailand with the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Also, the ICFTU could take separate labour action against Thailand. This could be in a form of a boycott against Thailand internationally. The steps could include stoppages in loading and off-loading of cargo, postal and telephone services, as well as international cooperation on public utilities development.

Mr Bunthiam Khamchu, President of the Thai Trade Union, criticised the Government and the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC] for their decision to disband the state enterprise unions.

"What can the people hope from the Government and the NPKC judging from what they have done by taking away the basic rights of the unionists?" he asked.

Mr Bunthiam warned that efforts to wipe out the state enterprise unions would be met with unrest in the country.

Meanwhile, Transport and Communications Deputy Minister Gen Wirot Saengsanit insisted that the move to dissolve the unions was justified as union members would not be losing any of their welfare benefits.

The National Peace-Keeping Council and the Anan Panyarachun Government have repeatedly insisted that the two bills would not hurt union members in anyway.

But union leaders and some academics have countered that the move was highly undemocratic and would effectively bar them from effective wage-bargaining in the future.

Gen Wirot, who is also Army Chief-of-Staff and an NPKC member, said the bill clearly shows that state enterprise workers would lose none of their welfare benefits and only the status of the unions would be changed.

He said he expected no problems from the labour and state enterprise unions under the Communications Ministry and "everyone is welcome to talk to me".

Asked if their move to oppose the bill would be considered a violation of ministerial regulations governing the code of conduct, the deputy minister said it would not be considered so as they had the right to make a response provided it was "within the bounds of reason".

"I can't see what they would lose under the bills. Instead everyone would gain. We should all study the details of the bills first. We have to consider how it is going to benefit the majority," Gen Wirot said.

Asked if a union protest would not violate martial law, Gen Wirot said he had not "studied" the question and told reporters to put it before the interior minister instead.

Asked about the union threat to urge international labour organisations to boycott Thai products, the deputy minister said the Government had considered the issue carefully before sponsoring the bills and felt that they were not breaching any union rights.

Opinion Leaders React to Union Dissolution Moves**Thanong Pho-an Statement**

*91SE0208A Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 18 Mar 91
pp 1, 17*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Mr. Thanong Pho-an, president of the Employees Council of the Labor Council of Thailand, called an emergency meeting of the Labor

Council in order to discuss the dissolution of the state enterprise unions. This meeting was held at the Bangkok Palace Hotel. After the meeting, about 1700, Mr. Thanong was interviewed by reporters and said that those at the meeting were united on this issue. A letter opposing this policy will be sent to General Sunthon, and they will ask to meet with Gen. Sunthon because they do not agree with this. It is thought that this action is aimed at destroying the labor movement in Thailand. The dissolution of the state enterprise unions will also affect the labor unions in the private sector, because the state enterprise labor unions are like the elder brother of the labor unions in the private sector in making demands on various issues.

Mr. Thanong said that the reason why his group opposes this is that the state enterprise labor unions do not pose an obstacle to the development of state organizations. It can benefit the development of the country and protect the state's interests, which could be siphoned off by political administrators. There is nothing urgent about this policy. This is something for the future. It isn't a vital issue today. The National Peacekeeping Council should discuss what steps to take to end poverty in the country. It should concern itself with the drought and the safety of the workers rather than this issue. He said that he will try to submit this letter and arrange a meeting as soon as possible, perhaps this week.

Mr. Thanong also said that Gen. Suchinda stated on 25 February that the military empathizes with the suffering of the laborers. That lifted the spirits of the laborers. But now, that has changed, with the military's statements causing laborers great pain. If there is to be greater democracy, there must be more freedom. "People shouldn't think that they are 'big people' in the country and that they can do whatever they want. They should listen to the people. They should listen to the laborers. Before the National Peacekeeping Council does anything, it should be very careful and listen to the reasons given by others. I don't think that anyone wants bloodshed. Thais aren't afraid to die, but they are afraid of starving. As I have said, it's up to the senior people in the country to decide whether they want to listen," said Mr. Thanong sharply.

Mr. Thanong said that dissolution of the state enterprise labor unions is an important target of the National Peacekeeping Council. It took this action after seizing power, with the purpose of the coup being to suppress corruption and take action on the assassination issue. He said that each employees council will probably take action to oppose the dissolution of the labor unions, because every organization has a state enterprise labor union. Some have said that no one will "take the bull by the horns." He said that if something like that is done, he isn't sure what will happen. But if action is taken to destroy the labor movement, the matter will definitely become very serious. "Today, the bees are still in the hive. You shouldn't bother them. You might kill one or two, but you can't kill all of them," said Mr. Thanong stubbornly.

Mr. Thanong added that, besides this, he and members of the Employees Council of the Labor Council of Thailand will submit a letter asking that Announcement 54 be repealed, because it places too many restrictions on the labor unions in the private sector. If the unions or members don't abide by the Labor Relations Act, they can have their status revoked immediately and cannot be reinstated at an extraordinary session for one year. And a strike cannot be called immediately; a motion must be approved by more than half the members, and at least five days must be spent trying to reach a compromise. Also, this must concern an employment issue. Employers can fire people or close a plant immediately. He said that the council will submit a letter asking that Announcement 54 be reviewed, because this will not help improve the lives of the workers in any way. [passage omitted]

Columnist Opposes Council Move

91SE0208B Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 7 Mar 91
p 5

["Ta Mo Lo" column]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The idea of dissolving the state enterprise labor unions has been smoldering for a long time. This is because these labor unions have constantly played a very tough role. [passage omitted] They have constantly threatened to turn off the water and electricity, cut telephone service, stop land transport, close the ports, and stop mail delivery. In particular, their threats increased and became more strident when the government implemented a policy of changing the form of the state enterprises in order to expand investment. The labor unions opposed this and began staging demonstrations. [passage omitted]

The people and the mass media, which used to support the state enterprise labor unions, have grown tired of these unions because, at one time, when the unions demonstrated and made threats, the people lived in fear for several days and were on the verge of having nervous breakdowns. The labor unions should be more aware.

However, even though I am unhappy with the behavior of the state enterprise labor unions, I am opposed to having the bureaucracy take over the state enterprises and to dissolving the state enterprise labor unions. If the administration has problems with the unions, it should try to solve the problems with the unions rather than dissolve the unions.

To administer the state enterprises, there must be flexibility and sufficient freedom. This is very important in administering the state enterprises. There will always be problems. Weaknesses should be corrected, because hundreds of billions of baht have been invested in the state enterprises. They can't be stuffed into the bureaucratic mold. If the state enterprise labor unions are dissolved, the state enterprise workers will lose their morale and take on the attitude of "bureaucrats." The state enterprises will quickly "slide into the canal" and even if they don't collapse, they won't grow. Let's not try that.

I think that regular government officials should have their own labor union in order to improve their work efficiency. Labor unions can do a lot to improve people's morale. [passage omitted]

As for changing the form of the state enterprises, which the labor unions oppose and which is still pending, I think that there is a way out without having to dissolve the labor unions. I think that those implementing the policy will be able to soothe the unions if the change in the state enterprises is done in a sincere and straightforward manner. I think that the state enterprise labor unions are now speaking in a much calmer tone. The labor unions accept certain changes in principle. But they still don't accept certain things. It isn't that they are being stubborn. I think that an agreement can be reached. [passage omitted]

However, I think that the dissolution of the state enterprise labor unions should be left to the permanent or elected government. This is not an urgent matter. This does not pose an obstacle to implementing the economic policy of the temporary government. Even though the National Peacekeeping Council and the temporary government can do this because of the power given to them by Article 27, that is, even though they can dissolve the state enterprise labor unions and prevent them from staging demonstrations, that would be just a temporary calm. The unions will someday rise up and take action against the next elected government. That could become a major issue. Thus, the elected government should be the one to solve this problem. That would be better, and there would be less violence. The state enterprise labor unions are like democracy. That is, once they have come into existence, you can't dissolve them. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views State Enterprises

91SE0208C Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 19 Mar 91 p 8

[Editorial: "To Separate State Enterprises"]

[Excerpts] The idea of separating state enterprise activities from the protection of the Labor Relations Act has been around for a long time. This began to be discussed seriously during the Prem administration. But this was never actually implemented. During the period of the democratically elected government, opposition to this by state enterprise workers grew even stronger. [passage omitted]

[The government has tried] to divide the groups or separate the state enterprises by target and objective. It has implemented measures to change the state enterprises by allowing people in the private sector to play a role in administering things and to own shares. It has tried to sell the enterprises to the private sector outright. Depending on the degree of necessity, various measures have been discussed, and measures were included in the Fifth National Economic and Social Development Plan. But the measures in the Development Plan have not been fully implemented. The government has been able

to implement only certain parts. It has not been able to take resolute action. [passage omitted]

The point that must be accepted is that the state has been investing in state enterprise activities since the very beginning. The government has guaranteed the foreign loans taken by the state enterprises in order to expand various projects. The state enterprises can't separate themselves and become independent entities like those in the private sector. And every day, it becomes more and more difficult for the state to take steps to ensure that the basic public service activities reach everywhere and at least break even.

The trend toward having private enterprises, which have greater capital and which are more adept in managing things, is something that must be accepted in both the capitalist and socialist worlds. State enterprise workers everywhere must accept this trend. They must consider the interests of the nation and the people as a whole.

Student Leaders, Commentators' Reaction to Martial Law

NPKC Stance on Student Protest Questioned

91SE0209A Bangkok SIAM RAT in Thai 9 Mar 91 p 8

[Editorial: "Those Who Lost Power and Students"]

[Excerpts] General Suchinda Khraprayun, the RTA [Royal Thai Army] commander in chief and deputy president of the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC], was interviewed by reporters at the Suan Runrudi Operations Center last Wednesday.

Today, those who lost power are trying to use money to benefit themselves. There have been reports that they are using students. He said that he hopes that there will not be any opposition. Some students may truly disagree with the National Peacekeeping Council. But other students have been enticed by money. Thus, he said that he would like to take this opportunity to warn them and tell them not to allow themselves to become the tools of those who lost power. [passage omitted]

It is thought that those who lost power are spending money to incite students to oppose the National Peacekeeping Council and that they are trying to get students to express views and engage in demonstrations opposing the seizure of power by the NPKC. They want the students to say that this action has destroyed democracy or that this action was taken in order to benefit certain people or groups and not the people or nation as a whole. The purpose is to make the people hate the NPKC and have them consider taking action as in the past.

We admit that the views expressed by some students may have been influenced by certain people. But at the same time, we believe that most students are capable of coming to their own conclusions and that they will not allow themselves to become the tools of anyone. That became evident when a student burned himself to death

in protest against the previous administration. But most students do not support this, because they do not think that the appeals made by these student groups carry sufficient weight.

In the past, students have carried on activities to oppose the actions of the people with administrative power in cases in which they have felt that those actions could do serious harm to the country or greatly reduce the rights and freedoms of the people. One example is what happened just before the terrible events of 14 October 1973. [passage omitted]

If the NPKC adheres to its original intention of implementing real democracy, that is, if it still intends to restore administrative power to the people as soon as possible and act accordingly, we feel that there is no reason for students to become the tools of those who lost power and oppose the NPKC.

Thirayut Bunmi Supports NPKC

91SE0209B Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 3 Mar 91
pp 1, 20

[Excerpt] Mr. Thirayut Bunmi, a social and political science scholar and special instructor with the Faculty of Social Sciences, Thammasat University, and a former student leader during the events of 14 October [1973], said that the recent coup marked a major political turning point. If the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] makes a mistake, this will represent a great step backward. But if it does a good job, democracy will move forward. The NPKC should stipulate its role correctly. In view of the world situation and the situation in the country today, military officers cannot lead and carry out economic and political changes as they did during the time of Field Marshal Sarit. Their role should be one of clearing a path for just a short time. They should not try to solve problems in fields in which they have no expertise.

Mr. Thirayut said that there were two main issues that led to this coup. One was corruption, and the other was vote-buying by MP's [members of Parliament], which was an important element of the vicious political circle. On the economic and social fronts, there has been great development. This is the result of the hard work of the Thai people and their willingness to express their views. The NPKC should limit its targets to just two problems: implementing the best constitution possible and solving the problem of corruption. The other problems should be left to the interim government and the next elected government. [passage omitted]

Student Federation Chief's Reaction

91SE0209C Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 15 Mar 91 p 3

[Excerpt] On the afternoon of 9 March, Miss Saowani Chitrun, the secretary general of the Student Federation of Thailand (SFT), announced that the SFT is very

concerned about the statement issued by General Suchinda Khrapayun, the RTA [Royal Thai Army] commander in chief and deputy president of the National Peacekeeping Council. He said that there are people behind the student activities and that students are receiving money from abroad to carry on these activities. There is no evidence to substantiate such statements. This is like a smear campaign.

Miss Saowani said that the SFT feels that students and other people are expressing concern for the country with pure intentions. Their actions show that they want real democracy. Senior military officers can express such views if they want, but the SFT is worried about this. They have no grounds for making such statements. This seems like an attempt to smear these people and prevent them from expressing their views. The SFT feels that every effort should be made to prevent misunderstanding during this difficult period. It is essential that the information be accurate and that people have an opportunity to express their views. People should not be restricted with respect to what or whom they can talk about.

The secretary general of the SFT asked that martial law be lifted as soon as possible in order to provide assurance that the people will be allowed to play a part in developing democracy and to allow the people to express their views on various problems. The SFT hopes that the military will listen to the views of a broad spectrum of people and not set conditions to block people, because the situation today is relatively calm.

As for the new government, the secretary general of the SFT said that the members of the new Cabinet must be viewed in terms of whether they are good people with capabilities. But from the standpoint of the democratic movement, the SFT cannot accept these people, because the fact that they were appointed to their positions is in conflict with the development of a democratic system, in which the people are the most important element. The fact that they may be good and highly capable people is a separate issue from that of real democracy. [passage omitted]

Editorial Assesses Foreign Reaction

91SE0209D Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 15 Mar 91
p 3

[Editorial: "Sporot of a Real Man"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In the wake of the coup here, most of the superpowers, most of which have a presidential system like that in the United States or a parliamentary system like that in England, seem to view Thailand as a black sheep. They see Thailand as reverting to a military dictatorship. What they are uncertain about is why most Thais seem to support this coup and the step back to square one even though this is a rejection of the people's power.

The formula that the superpowers have been using for a long time is, if a coup is staged in a country and the legally elected government is overthrown, aid to that country will immediately be suspended and the level of relations may be reduced. Although they may not announce an economic boycott, there will be a boycott to a certain degree, because large banks throughout the world will rate that country's credit as poor. As a result, that country's volume of international trade will immediately decline. [passage omitted]

Editorial Sees Martial Law as Obstacle

91SE0209E Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai
18-24 Mar 91 p 3

[Untitled Editorial]

[Excerpts] The purpose of martial law, which gives broad powers to those governing the country during times of unrest in the country or in times of war, is to enable the powerholders to issue orders and take action quickly in keeping with the situation and the need to act swiftly.

"The important this is to suppress those groups that are planning on or thinking about resisting."

It is generally accepted that the National Peacekeeping Council had to impose martial law during the first week after it seized power. But now that an administrative law has been promulgated and an interim government has been established, the question is, Why is martial law still in effect?

Article 27 of this law clearly states that this is proper in cases in which the head of the National Peacekeeping Council or the prime minister feels that this is necessary in order to suppress activities aimed at disrupting order, destroying national security or the monarchy, disrupting the nation's economy or the nation's administration, causing turmoil, ruining the good morals of the people, destroying the country's resources, or harming the health of the people. [passage omitted]

The best way out of the economic recession, particularly as it effects exports, is to get other countries to accept the position of this administration. This is in addition to diplomatic means and the fact that several of the ministers are well known in foreign circles. It is martial law that is the major obstacle to gaining the recognition of the civilized countries.

Editorial Views Anan 'Independence'

91SE0209F Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai
11-17 Mar 91 p 3

[Untitled Editorial]

[Excerpts] There is a very delicate relationship between the "independence" of the interim government headed by Anan Panyarachun and the "supervisory power" held by General Sunthon Khongsomphong and the National

Peacekeeping Council [NPKC]. This is based on "constructive understanding." They must work together based on a spirit of sacrifice and love of country, religion, and monarchy. They must be willing to make sacrifices for each other. Otherwise, there could soon be a separation between this "independence" and "supervisory power." [passage omitted]

The image of Anan Panyarachun is that of a technician. He is a modern administrator who takes a broad view of things. Also, he is accepted by other countries. The new prime minister has long been recognized as a person of "prestige" and as a person who "is his own man."

The best way to "control" Anan Panyarachun is to use "psychological power" by allowing him to do his job, thinking that he must make sacrifices on behalf of the country. If such a personality is in harmony with the needs of the NPKC, there is a good chance of solving the country's problems in the short time available in line with the goals stated by the NPKC. But the NPKC, which holds "supervisory power," must find a "yardstick" to measure "goodness" or "constructiveness" instead of relying on the "system."

The NPKC is trying to "find good people, who do not have to be elected." Thus, it is the NPKC that is the "yardstick for measuring goodness." If those whom the NPKC views as being "good people" do something that is not in line with what the NPKC wants, the only thing that can be used to judge those actions is an effort to understand the intentions behind those actions, a feeling of responsibility toward the country, and an effort to keep "personal" feelings from influencing "judgments." [passage omitted]

There have been many instances when the "people," who "hold power," have elected representatives to administer the country and have then been disappointed when their representatives have failed to do things in accord with their wishes. This is both deep and wide for the people. They can get rid of or control those people in an "electoral" system. Today, the NPKC is like the "people," and the Cabinet and various units appointed by the NPKC are like their "representatives." We will have to wait and see what measures they use to manage their representatives. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Views Past Political Victimization

91SE0207B Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 3 Mar 91
pp 1, 4

[Excerpts] The life of Anan Panyarachun, Thailand's new prime minister, has been successful in almost all respects. Very few people ever achieve such success. [passage omitted]

At age 59, Anan has risen to a very important position. However, amidst of all his achievements, Anan frequently tells people about something that caused him great pain. Even though that happened many years ago,

it is still very fresh in his mind. He will probably remember that his entire life.

Anan was charged with being a communist and dismissed from government service. This happened following the terrible events of 6 October 1976. At that time, Anan was the undersecretary of foreign affairs. At that time, there was great turmoil in the country. People were very fearful of each other. This situation wore down Anan. When Mr. Thanin Kraiwichian became prime minister, he completely changed Thailand's foreign policy. Anan could not put up with this and made preparations to resign his position. While waiting for the right moment to resign, Anan was appointed acting minister of foreign affairs, and he had to explain the situation to foreign diplomats. Anan has said that he explained what had actually happened.

Anan served as acting foreign affairs minister to 22 October 1976, when something totally unexpected happened. The Administrative Reform Council issued a letter dismissing him from government service. It also ordered that he be investigated on two charges:

1) Disclosing government secrets to the Student Center, and 2) siding with the communists in opening relations with communist countries.

In an interview with HI CLASS, Anan once said that "when I heard about those charges, I felt terrible. I called my wife and she almost fainted."

The reason why the Administrative Reform Council charged Anan with being a communist was that Anan had been ordered by M.R. Khukrit Pramot, the prime minister in 1975, to hold talks with the United States on withdrawing its military bases from Thailand. Thus, Anan's image at that time was that of a person who was "anti-American" and who sided with the communist countries. And during that period, Thailand began having diplomatic contacts with China and adjusting its diplomatic relations with Laos and Vietnam. Thus, Anan's image was that of a person who was very close to the communist countries.

Anan has said that there was nothing he could do about that. Thailand was a member of the United Nations and had to associate with all countries. But as a result of carrying out this "duty," he was viewed as siding with the communist countries.

"I admit that 6 October [1976] was the saddest day in my life. That day, I was burned in effigy, as was Mr. Phichai Rattakun, the then minister of foreign affairs. People came and threatened my wife. They said that I was a communist and that I should be on guard. That was very strange. Several professors came and said, 'if someone like you can be charged with being a communist, there is no hope for people like us.' That was because my family had always served the king."

In the wake of what happened, Anan clearly stated that he had lost all faith in Thai society. However, while

having to confront this political storm, Anan continued to fight on within the country. He resolutely refused to flee abroad even though there were people who were prepared to help him.

Mr. Kurt Waldheim, the then secretary general of the United Nations, contacted him and offered him two important jobs at the United Nations. But Anan refused the offer. He also turned down job offers from several universities. Anan continued to fight until he succeeded in proving that he was an honest person and that he had not done anything wrong.

"The investigation showed that I had not done anything wrong and so I was again given a position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At that time, Mr. Upadit Pacariy-angkun was the minister. He told me that he planned to appoint me ambassador to England. But Mr. Thanin blocked that, saying that if I was sent to London, I would get together with Dr. Pui Ungphakorn and incite Thai students again. Thus, I didn't go to London but to Germany instead."

Even though Anan says that what happened to him was a matter of fate, and he and his family had to suffer, he was able to recover. "As for the events of 6 October, looking back, what happened to me does not seem all that important. Now that I have been through such terrible events, I know that I can handle anything that may arise." [passage omitted]

Police Chief Discusses Crime, Corruption Crackdown

*91SE0207C Bangkok NAO NA in Thai 20 Mar 91
pp 1, 14*

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] On 19 March, Police General Sawat Amonwiwat, the director-general of the Police Department, revealed that Mr. Chroenchit Na Songkhla, the undersecretary of interior, sent a letter to all provincial governors. The provincial police chiefs were ordered to meet with him, and influential people were invited to come for informal and secret talks. This is thought to be the first step in an effort to suppress these people or get them to cooperate.

In the Bangkok area, Police Gen. Sawat said that he has ordered the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to meet with influential people. If necessary, he will meet with them himself and tell them that, as fellow Thais, we must all work together to develop the country and suppress corruption. Thus, they should stop engaging in such activities and order their subordinates to stop engaging in illegal activities. If they don't, resolute action will be taken in accord with the law. It may even be necessary to use special measures in addition to the usual laws.

In an interview on 18 March, the director-general of the Police Department said that he plans to invite influential people to have lunch with him on 20 March in order to ask them to stop engaging in activities that disrupt order.

This is a gentle but firm measure. That same day, Gen Issaraphong Nunphakdi, the minister of interior, will attend a meeting at the Police Department.

Police Gen. Sawat also said that, in meeting with these influential people, it isn't necessary to hold the meeting at a government office, because they have to be shown respect. Asking them to come to a government location could be harmful to them. The mass media would take pictures. Thus, this must be handled carefully.

That same day, the director-general of the Police Department held a meeting with the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, the commissioners of the provincials 1-4, the assistant director-general for suppression, and the heads of the other units concerned. They discussed the interior ministry's policy of suppressing influential people in order to ensure that commanders understand this policy. This is because the term "influential people" includes people who engage in constructive activities as well as people who violate the law. [passage omitted]

With respect to those influential people who violate the law, the director-general of the Police Department said that this includes major gangs that are involved in destroying the forests and operating casinos and who are involved in other illegal activities. It will be very difficult to suppress these people. "We must do things in accord with the policies of the Ministry of Interior and, in particular, the National Peacekeeping Council. We must suppress cases of corruption in which government officials support criminal gangs. We have to eliminate influence in this sphere. Thus, it will be difficult to suppress this using ordinary laws, because government officials are involved in this."

Police Gen. Sawat said that the provincial police commanders have two roles to play. In their capacity as provincial police commanders, they must give advice to and politely explain things to the influential people. They must then monitor the results of the work. If things are not done in accord with the policies, the provincial police commanders can launch a suppression campaign. They must send a report to the Police Department every 15 days. If they aren't able to take action, the Police Department will take action on its own. The Central Investigation Bureau must order the Suppression Division to monitor the results of the operations in both Bangkok and the provinces. Suppression operations and other activities must be carried out quickly.

As for the names of the influential people and the number of such people, the director-general of the Police Department declined to reveal their identities, because that could harm those people. He said that the exact number isn't known. He said that the list sent to him is not very accurate. There were 200 names on the list, and that is too many. There aren't that many influential people. Officials also need to consider whether they are major influential figures or gangs. Some are just minor

people. If the police name them as influential people and then don't arrest them, the police will be accused of failing to do their duty.

Police Gen. Sawat said that even if influential people have close ties to important people, action must be taken against them. "It isn't necessary for them to be such people. Even if it's someone who is close to me, if they violate the law, action will be taken against them."

As for policemen who help influential people or who serve as their underlings, the director-general of the Police Department said that he has appealed to police officials to stop engaging in such activities. Steps can be taken to prevent police officials from engaging in such activities for a time, but later on, this will start up again. [passage omitted]

A report from the Commissioner's Office of the Metropolitan Police stated that Police Lieutenant General Wirot has issued a secret order to the commander of the northern, southern, and Thonburi police commanders to investigate those people whose activities pose a threat to society. On the economic front, they are to investigate the hoarding of goods aimed at making an unusually high profit. On the social front, they are to investigate those who bully, harass, or threaten others. They are to investigate vagrants and those who do not have a regular job, who operate casinos, who engage in prostitution, and who operate illegal lotteries. [passage omitted]

U.S. Aid Halt Blamed for KPNLF Banditry

91SE0207A Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 2 Mar 91
pp 1, 17

[Excerpts] An RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] round killed a Thai. KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front] bandits are starving and so they are committing crimes against Thais again. They crossed the border and robbed a Thai villager in the middle of the night. They fired an RPG round at him, which cut him in half. They then stole all his valuables and fled back to Cambodia.

Concerning this barbaric act by this group of Cambodian bandits, a report from the border area of Prachinburi Province stated that at approximately 0100 hours on 1 March, approximately 15 Cambodian bandits dressed in camouflage fatigues and armed with various war weapons, including RPG's, AK rifles, M-16 rifles, and grenades, violated Thai territory once again. They moved two kilometers into Thailand. They surrounded a house, killed the owner, stole his property, and then fled back to Cambodia.

The report stated that the house that was attacked by these Cambodian bandits was a two-story wooden house that was also used to sell sundry items. It is located at 82 Village 3, Ban Nong Chan, Khok Sung Subdistrict, Taphraya District, Prachinburi Province. [passage omitted]

When they heard the RPG round explode, elements of the Burapha Force and police officials from the provincial police station in Taphraya District, which is located near the scene of the crime, immediately sent forces there. The Cambodian bandits took all the valuables they could find, including VCR's, cameras, liquor, 8,000 baht in cash, and fish sauce. They then fled back across the border to Cambodia, leaving the body of the victim, Mr. Phimthana, at the scene of the crime. The younger sister of Mr. Phimthana was not injured during the robbery.

The report stated that these Cambodian bandits were members of the Son Sann Khmer Serei faction. Today, these forces regularly cross the border and rob Thais along the border. Two months ago, the United States cut its aid to this Cambodian faction. Because of this, the Burapha Force has experienced problems in suppressing these bandits even though resolute measures have been implemented in suppressing Cambodian bandits.

MILITARY

Police, Army Class 5 Marriage Ties

91SE0205A Bangkok KHAO PHISSET in Thai
18-24 Mar 91 p 12

[Text] A few days ago, the Police Department made an interesting appointment. That is, it appointed Police Capt. Yupharet Nilakham to the position of deputy clerk to Police Lt. Gen. Bunchu Wangkanon, the well-known assistant director-general of the Police Department.

When the surname "Nilakham" is mentioned, people think of Lt. Gen. Phuchong Nilakham, one of the leaders of CRMA [Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy] Class 5, who was a fellow classmate of Police Lt. Gen. Bunchu. Actually, Yupharet is the youngest daughter of Police Lt. Gen. Bunchu. She "changed" her last name to Nilakham when she married the son of Lt. Gen. Phuchong. That is why she uses the surname Nilakham.

Besides this "tie," Bunchu and Phuchong have also been working together since 1982 to solve the assassination case. Today, Lt. Gen. Phuchong is one of the military representatives involved in the investigation of this case.

ECONOMIC

Academics Seek Delay in Patent Law Decision

BK0904085391 Bangkok THE NATION in English
9 Apr 91 p B24

[By Oranut Anusaksathian]

[Text] Two days before government officials are to wrap up the final package of patent law amendments, seven Thammasat University lecturers have called on the Commerce Ministry to delay the process.

Commerce officials, when asked by THE NATION yesterday to comment on the request, said they would have to go ahead with the final package, which many view as being too lenient toward foreign patent holders.

They said the amendment was necessitated by the Thai government's prior commitment to its U.S. counterparts. The government has pledged to present the revised patent bill to the House of Representatives by May.

The officials argued that the recommendations which include the extension of patent protection to pharmaceuticals, their active ingredients, food, beverage, farm machines and biotechnological inventions are in Thailand's own interests, and not the United States'.

A group of seven lecturers from Thammasat's Economics Faculty, led by Dr Watchariya Thosanguan, told a press briefing yesterday that the Commerce Ministry reviewing the Patent Act B.E. [Buddhist Era] 2522 (1979) should delay the decision-making until an internationally-accepted framework for intellectual property protection has emerged from the Uruguay Round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

They fear that the government might be forced to do anything to appease their U.S. counterparts as the U.S. Trade Representative's deadline to review Thailand's status is drawing near. The decision is due to be made by the end of April.

Thailand is already on the U.S. "priority watch list" which is subject to regular reviews because of its ailing policies and practices concerning intellectual property protection.

The amendment of the patent act, they said, would amount to the Thai government yielding to foreign pressure. In this case, the government would risk exposing itself to additional demands from Washington in regard to copyright and trade mark protection.

A commerce official, who is involved in reviewing the law, said that the act, when amended, would protect Thai as well as foreign inventors. By calling for limitations on protection, the university lecturers were underestimating the ability of Thais to develop new products.

The lecturers argued that the inclusion of pharmaceuticals and active ingredients in the patent act would weaken Thai drug companies and affect consumers because the budding pharmaceuticals industry was unable to absorb the technology or produce essential active ingredients while consumers would face higher prices for medicine.

The government eventually would be required to cover the cost for the general public who could not afford to pay higher prices, they said. At the moment, drug expenses represent about 70 per cent of government public health care expenditure.

At present, the law does not protect drugs, active ingredients, food, drink, farm machines, animal and plant

varieties as well as biological inventions. The protection terms are 15 years for inventions and 7 years for product designs.

Doctors, Pharmacists Oppose Patent Law Change

BK2704032491 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] A group of doctors and pharmacists yesterday united to oppose Government attempts to amend the patent law in response to U.S. pressure.

The group claims to represent the Medical Council, the Rural Doctors Group, the Community Hospital Pharmacists Group and the Non-Governmental Organisations' Coordinating Committee for Basic Health and Intellectual Property Study Programme.

Professor Withun Ungpraphan of the Medical Council said the council disagrees with amendments to the patent law because medicines are not like ordinary commodities, but are essential for men's survival.

"Whoever invents a drug must donate it as a charitable gift to the public and should not monopolise it under patent," he said.

He claims amendments to the law will benefit only the United States.

Professor San Hatthiratt of the non-governmental committee labelled patent laws as a type of economic monopoly.

He said Thai people will have to buy drugs at higher prices if U.S. drug patents are protected in this country.

Thai pharmaceutical industries will also be hard hit and many of them may be forced to close down, he said, adding he doubts the U.S. will stop intimidating Thailand with Section 301 of the Trade Act even if the law is amended to protect U.S. drug patents.

Associate Professor Chiraphon Limpananon of the study programme of Chulalongkorn University said the existing 1979 Patent Act is appropriate to the current stage of national development and therefore needs no changes.

Dr Wiraphan Suphanchaimat, for rural doctors, claims 600 district hospitals would be hard hit and have to shoulder additional costs as a result of law amendments.

Medicine costs constitute 70 per cent of hospital expenses.

Editorial Supports Drafting of New Copyright Law

BK2604015991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Apr 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Time for Cool Heads on Copyright Issue"]

[Excerpts] Thailand needs a new copyright law. It needs one because the old one is out of date, unfair, confusing,

and restricting national development. It needs one, not just because the United States has repeated its demand for such a law and threatened trade action, although this is a rude reminder of the inadequacy of our present state. Thailand indeed needs a new copyright law partly because much of the world in which it lives is unhappy with the present law. But international pressure is only a minor reason that new regulations on so-called "intellectual property" are badly needed. A new law is necessary, not for reasons of foreign pressure, but because it would help Thailand.

Inside Thailand, the present laws on copyright, patents and trademarks are at best confusing and at worst injurious to many of our most inventive citizens. Artists, inventors and high-technology geniuses are the worst sufferers. [passage omitted]

In recent years and days harsh and unyielding foreign pressure has been applied to Thailand to write new regulations on copyright, trademarks and patents and a number of controversial—some would say compromise—bills are due to come before the National Legislative Assembly later this year. Such pressure usually has been seen as—and sometimes has been—a club raised against the nation. But even if some act wrongly against Thailand, or speak too harshly to their friends, there is no reason to answer one wrong action with another. Thailand is obliged to live within certain worldwide guidelines, because it is a member of the world community. Whether they speak gently, or rant noisily, they are sending a message. Our government should hear it.

Thai laws should be Thai, and there is no disagreement on this. In specific cases, general world practice may be unacceptable to our citizens. For now, the great mistake of past governments has been to leave matters exactly as they are, with little effort to seek and implement alternative, progressive standards. One attempt by the final Prem administration to safeguard intellectual property rights died when that government went out of office. Since then such admittedly sticky issues as pharmaceutical patents and computer software copyrights have generated much argument and "compromise" bills that few are entirely happy with have reached the drafting stage. Every country has its own laws on such matters, usually adopted after debate, and always reflecting national opinion. Our governments' failing has been to leave matters where they rest for too long, with inadequate laws.

The Government gives precious little support to artists and other creative Thais. It is time to give them, at least, the support of the law. In so doing—incidentally or on purpose—it also will bring Thailand into line with international practice. This is desirable, no matter the tactics used by foreigners. Bad laws always should be repealed or changed, depending on the circumstances. The worst kind of bad law is one that stays on the books for ages. A

new look, and new laws which are fair to all, on the copyright issue should be a priority for our leaders.

Panel Approves Electricity Privatization Plan

BK1904031791 Bangkok THE NATION in English
19 Apr 91 p A2

[Text] The Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) will be able to immediately embark upon a three-year privatization plan, which will allow the private sector to hold 49 per cent of its equity, if the government gives its go-ahead to a plan approved yesterday by the Energy Policy Subcommittee.

The plan was described as a long-term solution to the state enterprise's funding problems.

The subcommittee, chaired by PM's [Prime Minister's] Office minister Phaichit Uathawikun, yesterday voted for the much-talked-about privatization to be carried out step-by-step until the government dilutes up to 49 per cent to private investors.

The Phaichit Subcommittee and the Petroleum Policy subcommittee, meanwhile, jointly agreed to the proposal to upgrade the National Energy Policy Office to a department under the PM's Office. Both the EGAT and departmental plans will need legal amendments by the National Legislative Assembly.

Phaophat Chawanalikikon, EGAT governor and a member of the Phaichit Subcommittee, said the EGAT unions have accepted the idea of privatization and the subcommittee did not discuss any possible hostile reaction from them.

The three-year plan was in fact proposed by EGAT, not the government, said Phaichit. It will solve the growing shortage of funds to cope with new power projects on a long-term basis since the equity will be restructured to reduce government holding to only 49 per cent. The Crown Property Bureau will control two per cent, which private investors will hold 49 per cent.

Until privatization is fully achieved, there will be short-term measures to deal with funding problems as EGAT needs about Bt [Baht] 200 billion for the construction of power plants over the next three years. During this lead-up, EGAT will open new companies to undertake its projects and subsequently sell shares to private investors.

This method will generate enormous premiums for the state enterprise which will hold 100 per cent of shares until the sales take place through listings on the exchange. The government will retain 49 per cent in these firms while premiums will be re-invested in following projects.

However, this method will not provide enough funds on a long-term basis as EGAT is expected to need Bt100 billion annually to build new power plants. This burden,

regardless of the external debt ceiling of US\$1.5 billion, cannot be shouldered by EGAT itself.

Phaichit said projects which are near completion and about to start, such as those planned in Rayong, Ao-pai and Kanom, should be prime targets for the short-term method. While EGAT amends its BE [Buddhist Era] 2511 law to remove legal barriers to its plan, it will prepare for the setting up of limited companies.

It was also proposed at yesterday's meeting that sales of EGAT assets totalling about Bt150 billion at present will need Cabinet approval only when they exceed Bt10 million in value instead of Bt500,000.

Meanwhile, sources said the National Energy Policy Office, which will be upgraded into a department, currently has 22 staff with Piyasawat Amaranan as director. They said Prasert Nasakun of the Juridical Council will head a team to amend the EGAT Act.

New Generals' Slots Planned; Armor Units Suspect

91SE0206A Bangkok LAK THAI in Thai 18-24 Mar 91
pp 15-17

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A report stated that General Sunthon Khongsomphon, the supreme commander and chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council, proposed a policy of increasing military slots and that this has been discussed by the Defense Council and Admiral Praphat Krutsanachan, the minister of defense. The slots to be added are one general's slot (field marshal grade) for the position of special adviser to the Supreme Command, one full general's slot, two lieutenant generals' slots, and three major generals' slots, for a total of seven slots in the Supreme Command. The Army, Navy, and Air Force will be allocated one slot for a full general, admiral, and air chief marshal respectively. They will be assigned to "headquarters." The Army will be allocated two additional lieutenant generals' slots, the Navy will get two slots for vice admiral, and the Air Force will get two slots for air marshal. One additional slot will be opened in the Army, Navy, and Air Force for a major general, rear admiral, and air vice marshal respectively. That is a total of 18 additional slots for the three services. When combined with the Supreme Command, that is a total of 25 additional slots.

The addition of another field-marshal grade general's slot for the position of special adviser to the Supreme Command means that there will be a total of 14 such slots instead of 13.

A news source of ours said that these additional slots were created for people who will serve on the National Peacekeeping Council. Prior to this, three additional generals' slots, one for a police general, one for a police lieutenant general, and one for a police major general, were created so that these people could serve on the National Peacekeeping Council. This April, officers will be appointed to fill these newly created slots for the

Supreme Command. The adviser, who is already a general, will be General Wattanachai Wutisiri. He will be appointed a special adviser, which is a slot for a field marshal-grade general. Last October, advisory slots were opened for a general, admiral, and air chief marshal in the three branches of service. The new slots for general, admiral, and air chief marshal will be for people "assigned to headquarters." [passage omitted]

A report stated that preparations are being made to appoint an officer to the position of chief of staff officers to the minister of defense, which is a position for a lieutenant general, vice admiral, or air marshal. There will be three additional staff officers and aides to the minister of defense, which are positions for a major general, rear admiral, or air vice marshal. People will also be appointed to the position of aide to General Wimon Wongwanit, the deputy minister of defense, and Air Chief Marshal Phisit Salikhup, the chief of staff officers, which is a position for a major general, rear admiral, or air vice marshal. [passage omitted]

In carrying out the coup on 23 February, the National Peacekeeping Council did not use any cavalry forces. This resembled the coup staged by General Chalut Hiransiri on 29 March 1975. No tanks were used during that coup, because no tanks were available for use. Thus, he had to use the infantry. This time, the National Peacekeeping Council could have used as many tanks or cavalry units as it wanted, but it chose not to use the cavalry. The only armored vehicles used were self-propelled AAA vehicles belonging to the AAA Division and a few armored personnel carriers (APC's). In seizing power, the National Peacekeeping Council simply used the Bangkok peacekeeping plan of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Force.

The reason why the council did not use tanks and cavalrymen may be that Major General Manun Rupkhachon still has great influence and close ties to company-grade cavalry officers, that is, tank commanders. The council was not sure how they would react if called on to take action in this case. Thus, in order to prevent any problems from arising, the council did not order any tank units to participate in the coup. The only Army forces used were the AAA Division, the 1st King's Guard Infantry Division, and certain units from the Special Warfare Command. Other units that participated in the coup included forces from the Bangkok Naval Station and forces from the RTAF Security Force. All of these forces are part of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Force.

General Chatchai Chunhawan, the former prime minister, who has stopped off in England before going to stay in Switzerland, is a former cavalry officer who rose through the ranks in the cavalry. He was an M-24 tank commander, which was the first tank deployed here during the time that Field Marshal Phin Chunhawan was the RTA [Royal Thai Army] commander in chief. Gen. Chatchai served as the commandant of the Cavalry School, and he is the person who had cavalrymen wear "black berets." He had very close ties to cavalrymen. It

is said that many of the cavalry cadets of that period are now field-grade officers and that they call Gen. Chatchai "teacher."

When Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat staged his coup in 1957, Gen. Chatchai was then a brigadier general. The reason why he was appointed ambassador to Argentina was that he controlled cavalry forces. At that time, another person who controlled cavalry forces was General Krit Punnakarn, who belonged to the Sarit faction.

The same thing happened this time. No one knew how closely Gen. Chatchai was tied to the cavalry. Thus, Gen. Chatchai has had to go abroad once again.

As for cavalrymen and Major General Manun Rupkhachon, there were indications that Maj. Gen. Manun was well liked by many cavalrymen. Cavalrymen participated in the 9 September 1985 rebellion in support of Gen. Manun, even though Maj. Gen. Manun had no position—he had been dismissed in the wake of the April Hawaii Rebellion—and they held power for more than half a day. But during the coup of 23 February, Maj. Gen. Manun had a position and was very close to Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan, the prime minister. Thus, Maj. Gen. Manun's power was not something that could be ignored. The fact that he is still at large in Thailand means that special care must be taken.

General Issaraphong Named to Telephone Board

91SE0206B Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 7 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] The National Peacekeeping Council has appointed General Issaraphong Nunphakdi chairman of the board of the Telephone Organization of Thailand [TOT] in place of Mr. Siphum Suknet, the former under secretary of communications, who was transferred to the Office of the Prime Minister. On 6 March, Mr. Mit Charoenwan, president of the TOT labor union, issued a statement welcoming the appointment of Gen. Issaraphong as TOT chairman. The labor union feels that the new chairman will be able to resolve the longstanding dispute between the Telephone Organization of Thailand and the Communications Authority of Thailand.

This statement also said that, during the year that Mr. Siphum served as chairman of the board of the Telephone Organization of Thailand, he was unable to resolve the dispute between these two organizations. The labor union made several attempts and asked that steps be taken to solve this problem as soon as possible. But it always came away disappointed, because the former TOT chairman did not solve this problem.

Local Content Rule for Automobiles Called Failure

BK3004014191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Apr 91 p 26

[Excerpt] The Industry Ministry has admitted its decades-old policy on local content in automobiles is a failure and that only auto assemblers have benefited from it.

The admission by Deputy Industry Minister Wira Susangkonkan comes after decades of suffering by consumers, forced to pay exorbitant car prices while the Government tried to protect local car parts manufacturers.

Mr Wira said Government requirements on local content had not achieved their aim of developing the country's auto industry.

Despite much conjecture in the past over the practicality of the policy, Mr Wira was the first Government minister to publicly admit it was a failure.

He claimed that while failing to contribute to the country's technological development, the local content requirement had kept car prices high.

The ministry now was working with the Commerce and Finance Ministries to reduce the local content requirement in the Thai auto industry.

Instead of protecting some local parts which were produced at a much higher cost, the ministry hoped to allow imports of parts through reduced import taxes to create competition for local producers, he said.

He said some locally-produced parts should be taken off the list of local content requirements altogether.

He said most local content manufacturers here were controlled by foreign firms and very few belonged to Thais.

And Mr Wira assured that the government would make certain its policy to import completely built up [CBU] cars would be practical and create competition.

"I can assure that the government would reduce import taxes on CBU cars so that it would be competitive with the locally-assembled products, and help provide more bargaining power to buyers for higher-quality cars," Mr Wira said.

In response to a major Japanese car firm's rejection of the new CBU import policy, Mr Wira said the ministry was now encouraging new makers to come to the Thai market, while new assemblers were welcome to open assembly plants here. [passage omitted]

Big Investment Projects No Longer Need Ministry Okay

*BK1604042591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
16 Apr 91 p 17*

[Text] Investment projects requiring more than 100 million baht no longer need prior approval from the industry minister.

The seven-year-old approval regulation will be lifted in a move aimed at reducing bureaucratic procedures.

Industry Minister Sippanon Ketuthat on April 4 signed an order lifting the regulation as part of a plan to liberalise industry, promote free competition and reduce factory licence procedures.

Mr Sippanon also lifted regulations banning the establishment of new factories and the expansion of existing ones producing fishing nets and caustic soda.

According to the new plan, industrial plants wishing to move into any export processing zone can do so without prior approval from the industry minister.

Approval can now be sought only from the Industrial Works Department director-general.

The previous regulation, which had been in force since November 12, 1984, covered industries needing urgent promotion, which had a market impact on other industries or which might affect farmers.

They included cement, beer, paper, zinc galvanised steel sheeting, ship building and repair, gunny bag and plastic bag industries.

For industries promoted by the Board of Investment [BoI], the ministry will adhere to the BoI ruling.

The ministry will not allow the establishment of any new industrial plants to compete with the existing BoI-promoted ones.

Mr Sippanon also scrapped two industrial announcements which banned the production of fishing nets and caustic soda.

The establishment of new factories or expansion of existing fishing net factories will be allowed without any conditions.

Caustic soda factories will also be allowed to be established or expanded without conditions.

Mr Sippanon on March 22 lifted a ban on the establishment of 10 types of industrial plants, as well as the expansion of these existing factories.

The industries were rice mill, ice, alum, sulphuric acid, polyol, emulsion asphalt, plastic sack, electric wire, match and mining machinery.

Eastern Europe Trade Potential Assessed

*BK1304021491 Bangkok THE NATION in English
13 Apr 91 p B8*

[Excerpts] Prague—Eastern Europe holds much potential for Thai goods, provided exporters make an effort to enhance the quality of their products, according to a trade expert from Czechoslovakia.

Bretislav Pabian, commercial director of BRNO Trade Fair and Exhibitions, the organizer of International Foods Fair, BRNO'91 in Czechoslovakia, said Thai

products cost less than goods imported by the Eastern Bloc from the United States and the European Community. [passage omitted]

BRNO'91, to be held from April 7-11, will be attended by 36 countries including the United States, Canada, Mexico, the 12 member-European Community, six ASEAN member nations, Hong Kong and South Korea.

Nine Thai companies will attend the exhibition. Danai Tulabadi, general manager of Milano Import-Export Co, a Thai company participating in the fair, said the Eastern bloc is a potential market for Thai exporters. Basic consumer goods in demand in those countries, which can be mass-produced in Thailand, include garments, shoes and canned food, he said.

Mode of payment is the major stumbling block in the Eastern Europe trade, Danai said.

All financial transactions have to be made through government banks which are not efficient enough to handle overseas business.

Moreover, local businessmen lack expertise in international practices, he added.

He said when these countries have succeeded in the liberalization of the economies, international trade will take off.

Sinchai Limthongkun, managing director of Thai Trade and Distribution Centre Corp, said that it is necessary to have a trading office for business dealing with these countries, which is otherwise time-consuming. He also supported the idea of barter trade between Thailand and the Eastern bloc.

Firms To Set Up Projects for PRC Market

BK1304020691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 13 Apr 91 p 15

[Text] Thai businesses are making a move on the Chinese market, to set up projects as varied as commercial banks, petrochemical projects and department stores.

Potential investors comprise Thai Petrochemical Industry Co (TPI), M. Thai Group, and Charoen Phokphan.

The TPI has decided to expand its operations in China by entering a joint-venture with the Shenzhen special economic zone to invest in a project worth more than 75,000 million baht.

The Thai Ambassador to Beijing, Montri Jaleechan, said yesterday the projects were likely to get approval from Prime Minister Li Peng soon.

He said TPI chief Prachai Leophairat met high-ranking officials of China's Development Planning Office on Wednesday to discuss details of the project, which would be located in China's special economic zone.

The ambassador also said Suchai Wiramethikun, chairman of M. Thai Group, had shown interest in the Chinese banking business, and was seeking a commercial bank licence for its operations in Guangzhou.

There also was a report that Charoen Pokphan (CP), which already had a number of joint-venture projects in China, was planning to operate a department store in Guangzhou with the Netherlands-based makro as its investment partner.

Charoen Pokphan recently was given approval to invest in a petrochemical project which would produce 30 million tonnes of PVC a year.

Mr Montri also said that in the first two months of this year, the trade value between Thailand and China was about U.S.\$200 million, with Thailand experiencing a high trade deficit of \$60 million because of high cement imports to solve the local shortage.

POLITICAL

Four Non-Governmental Offices To Open in Hanoi

BK1904025591 Hanoi VNA in French 1256 GMT
18 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA 18 Apr—An agreement was signed in Hanoi today on setting up representative offices of four non-governmental offices: Quaker Service-Vietnam, Redd Barna of Sweden, Save the Children Fund/UK of Britain, and Care International to Vietnam.

Present at the signing ceremony were representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, offices of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, and the four non-governmental organizations.

Democracy in Cuu Long Province Discussed

912E0144A Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG
in Vietnamese 28 Feb 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Duong Chi Hoa (Bay Bien), chairman of the People's Committee of Cuu Long, an important rice-producing province in the Mekong delta, by Trieu Xuan, special correspondent of SAIGON GIAI PHONG, place and date not given: "Democracy in the Countryside—An Urgent Matter for Agricultural Development and Social Stabilization"]

[Text] [SAIGON GIAI PHONG] Please give us an evaluation of the economic situation and social life of Cuu Long farmers in the past year.

[Duong] In 1990, for the first time Cuu Long Province had the largest volume of rice production: 1,117,000 tons of rice, an increase of 100,000 tons over 1989. Cuu Long had 1.8 million people and 180,000 hectares of rice-growing land. The area of two-crop rice fields increased a great deal because of continued construction of water conservancy works. 1990 was the first year in which the Tam Phuong water conservancy project became useful. In the Tam Phuong area alone, the rice-growing area increased by 50 percent and rice production by three times compared to the year before. In 1990, Duyen Hai was the last district in Cuu Long to be included in the national electric power network. In the past year, we were able to build 150 brotherhood houses for 150 families of wounded soldiers and dead heroes, families that had encountered extremely difficult conditions. We built 800 water spigots to supply fresh water to the coastal population, most of them ethnic Khmer people. Land disputes were basically resolved. Living conditions of the rural people were better thanks to good crops. Many families were able to buy TV sets, cassette recorders, Honda cub motorcycles, and water pumps. However, in the countryside now there has appeared a division between the rich and the poor. Many families, mostly ethnic Khmer families who did not have capital and did not know how to plan for things, had to pawn

their land. During the preharvest lean period, our province had to provide hundreds of families with food to save them from starvation. Illiteracy was not overcome quickly enough. Despite many difficulties that remain, generally speaking the Cuu Long countryside is being stabilized politically and socially, and having some development that we should be happy about in its agricultural economy.

[SAIGON GIAI PHONG] The realities in the Cuu Long countryside indicate that a fast division exists: Some families are getting rich very quickly while others have empty hands and must work as tenant farmers. The key of the problem is the poor farmers who have no capital. Usury, pawning of land, transferring of land ownership grow more severe every day. This is the law of commodity production. Some people think that it is time for the state to stop considering the rich people its target of reeducation and that the state should not bring down the rich in the countryside. There should be only measures aimed at preventing usury and immoral acts of exploitation. It should encourage farmers to learn how to get rich and at the same time it should take appropriate measures to provide capital assistance and scientific and technological guidance to those poor farmers who seriously work hard. At present, farmers are still hesitant. They are afraid that if they get rich, they will be reeducated! Mr. Chairman, what do you think about this opinion?

[Duong] I agree with the opinion you have just mentioned. Cuu Long is developing agriculture in the direction of commodity production. The division between the rich and the poor in the farmer population is necessary. One more farmer family that becomes rich means society becomes richer. We cannot repeat the mistake of leveling people as it was made in the past years. On the other hand, in accordance with the humane nature of our society, I think that the state, as well as provinces and districts, must try to provide those poor people who seriously work hard with capital assistance and scientific and technological guidance. We estimate that the 1991 rice production of Cuu Long Province will reach 1.16 million tons. In addition to rice, there will be exported shrimp, fast increase of the herds of hogs and cattle, and development of the garden-based economy. A very large quantity of capital will be appropriated for continuing water conservancy projects, particularly in the areas of sulfate and saline soil and ethnic minorities.

[SAIGON GIAI PHONG] The realities in the areas where only one rice or other crop was grown per year indicated that up to 30-40 percent of farm households suffered from shortages and starvation for three to six months per year, particularly among the ethnic Khmer people. Up to 40-50 percent of Khmer households had to pawn land, transfer ownership of land, or work as tenant farmers. Many families had to sell blood at the hospital in order to have some money to buy rice. Mr. Chairman, please give us some official figures on this situation.

[Duong] The situation that you have just mentioned is a real one. But we do not yet have any accurate figures. We only know that every year the province had to save thousands of people from starvation.

[SAIGON GIAI PHONG] A party committee secretary has told me that the act of saving people from starvation serves only as a temporary measure and cannot resolve the problem at its root. I share the same opinion. Please let me know whether positive measures have been taken in this matter.

[Duong] Like other provinces in the region Cuu Long encounters very great difficulties in regard to capital. We have done our very best to invest in water conservancy and electric power projects and to shoulder a small share in lending capital to farmers. We can only rely on the state, particularly Ho Chi Minh City and the economic sectors located in the municipality, to find sources of capital for our farmers. If the municipality and its economic sectors come here and invest in our farmer population, Cuu Long's potential will be exploited more quickly.

[SAIGON GIAI PHONG] May I suggest that you evaluate the capabilities of administration at the village level.

[Duong] This is a link that shows many weak and lingering points. We are short of educated and regularly trained cadres. Most of the cadres who are working for us have not been trained, are not versed in the law, and do not know how to do economic work. We are short of active cadres who know how to harmoniously combine the party's ideas and the people's wishes. The percentage of village administration cadres who are incompetent is not small. What we should appreciate is the fact that many cadres at the village level are people of good integrity and devotion, understand the people's aspirations, and hope that the people will escape poverty. We naturally cannot avoid having deviant cadres who violate the people's democratic rights. We have handled these people in accordance with the law. I think that we can have democracy in the countryside, develop production, and eliminate starvation, poverty, and ignorance only when the administration at the village level is strong in every respect.

[SAIGON GIAI PHONG] Do you have any opinion about the relationships between Cuu Long and Ho Chi Minh City and other provinces in the region?

[Duong] A close coordination between Cuu Long and Ho Chi Minh City in investing in economic development is very important and brings about great results for society as a whole. We regret very much that we have not achieved it yet. Cuu Long is strong in terms of resources and labor. The municipality is a foreign economic center with strength in terms of capital sources, the gate for export-import, and science and technology. Why don't we join together in making investment and exploiting our resources in a devoted manner? The Cuu Long farmers are in great need of invested capital. I think that

we have not yet appropriately exploited the strengths of both the province and municipality, and yet we at the same time always claim that we lack everything. Is it advisable that Ho Chi Minh City and the provinces in the region sit down and discuss with one another the measures to invest, to work together, and to have long-term plans?

Intellectuals Participate in Party Meeting

912E0145A Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG
in Vietnamese 3 Mar 91 p 1

[Article by Hoang Van Khang: "Opinions of Intellectual Party Members at Congress—Objective, Scientific, and Highly Responsible"]

[Text] Although the presidium had tried to combine and simplify up to half the issues intended to be discussed for contributing ideas to the draft documents of the nationwide Seventh Party Congress, the length of time—a day and a half—that the Municipal Party Organization's Science and Technology Committee Congress met was not really sufficient for the debate which got more and more heated as the congress continued its meeting. Right from the beginning when the first issue—the title, "The Program for Building Socialism in the Transitional Period"—was discussed, there were eight opinions offering rather profound analyses of the issue. Finally, a majority of opinions agreed to suggest adding the phrase, "in Vietnam," in order to assert the scope, nature, and true characteristics of our people's socialist construction, and to clearly reflect the realistic and creative view and the intention to avoid ambiguous or dogmatic tendencies as well. The issue that really led to the most heated debate was to form an opinion about the shortcomings and mistakes that the party had committed in the past. On the basis of analyzing the crises in the socialist countries in East Europe, failing to clearly define a model and the objectives of the socialist construction (in the first phase), and making mistakes regarding the measures to be taken to provide leadership for implementation in many fields, some people thought that the party had made mistakes "about the general line" on socialist construction. But some other people immediately responded by saying that the meaning and argument of the general line were correct and that the party had made mistakes only in regard to the policies and measures it set forth for implementing this general line and the actual organization of its implementation. The debate led to the need to carefully review and reexamine the basic and full concept regarding the general line through the documents of the party congresses. The excitement fully absorbed the thinking of all the people present. Two delegates from the municipal CPV Committee also took part in expressing opinions and views so as to help the congress to clarify the issues. The discussion aimed at affirming just one goal—to reach the per capita income of \$400 set for the year 2000—brought about as many as three different opinions: One considered the figure too low; the second one believed it lacked a scientific base; and the third found that there should be

no specific figure, for to include a figure would require setting other specific social goals so as to determine more fully the degree of development of society. As to some other issues, some party members offered evaluations that went totally against the draft documents. For instance, in the fields of education and public health, they did not agree to what was mentioned in the draft documents as achievements and instead considered them major shortcomings that actually led to opposite consequences, namely, "renewed illiteracy," "major education being taken out of the schools," "major physical examination and treatment being taken out of the hospitals," and so on, with a very serious decline in quality. Even the issues that had attracted agreement to the drafted documents from almost all of the opinions expressed were further analyzed and dissected. They included these issues: How to reform economic management and develop the productive capacity of all economic components in society on the basis of both theory and practice? What are the capabilities and role of individuals in the development of production during the transitional period in our country? With labor being a commodity, what will be its use based on the nature and specific characteristics of this special commodity in the reality of a multicomponent economy? And so on. A matter close to the party organization's heart that was treated as special involved two suggestions based on analyses of various aspects, from different angles, both theoretical and practical and domestic and foreign, and pointed to the need to add to the draft documents the question of linking economic development strategy with the protection of resources and the environment, and for asserting that science and technology would be a major field and classified as one of the building blocks of the structure of the national economy. To have correct policies and to properly use the advantages and increasing values of science and industry, first of all target policies toward science-technology workers and to train and improve the quality of the handicraft labor force so as to obtain great results. A number of people proposed that we adopt at least a strategy or major policy on science and industry. During discussions, one question that all party members who expressed their opinion tried to explain fully and accurately and at the same time clearly expressed their feelings, sincerity, and sense of urgency about was the need for the party to renovate itself fully and absolutely in regard to its organization, mechanism, operational formula, and leadership method; to take the necessary measures to improve the quality of the activities of party members and basic party organizations; to resolutely build at any cost a strong and fully competent party; and to maintain and ceaselessly heighten its role of leading the people toward successful socialist construction.

An outstanding aspect of the discussions that was so obvious was the fact that party members tried to explain and analyze in a really scientific and objective manner all of the issues that were raised. That aspect did help to create an atmosphere of being open, frank, sincere, and responsible. But there also were many things that should

be further noted in order to be really complete. As the congress presidium noted, about two-thirds of the party members present at the congress did not express their opinion. (Some others spoke dozens of times.) Was it because they were too cautious, or shy, or inherently reluctant, or because they had not made any studies in advance or preparations for the discussions that such an "incompleteness" occurred? However, one thing that we should be happy about was the fact that many party members seemed to want to have more analyses and more in-depth debates of all of the issues that had been raised. What was regrettable was that there remained too many issues that would greatly need further discussion. Although in the three previous rounds of discussions about 300 separate opinions had been contributed to the draft documents, at this congress the 30 major issues that had originally been scheduled for discussion were reduced to 14 and, toward the last hours of discussions, were further combined into eight groups of issues.

CPV Members in USSR View Congress Draft Documents

BK2704112591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 3 Apr 91

[Text] According to a VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the Soviet Union, the party organization of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] in the Soviet Union recently held a broad political drive among the party members and people who are working and learning in 500 installations there in order to discuss and contribute views to the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress.

The party committee members, together with representatives of the Overseas Party Affairs Committee, went to the various party bases in factories, schools, and the embassy to directly guide experts and students in their discussion and participate in the drive.

With a sense of responsibility and construction, large numbers of party members and people discussed the draft documents and gave their views in a scrupulous, democratic, and frank manner. The views were summarized promptly and sent home. They mainly focused on the lines, positions, and measures necessary for the country to progress under conditions of the non-existence of a perfect socialist model.

Many views are concerned with the strategic lines and foreign policy of the party, which are firm and consistent in principle but very flexible in terms of strategy and are designed to create conditions for resolving the problems of the country. Many of the contributions deal with the renovation of the party, revolutionary leadership, and technology and industry, especially the party's specific policies toward intellectuals.

While conducting the political drive, the party committee consolidated various party organizations and basic party chapters and the cadres' organizations of

various units in order to help them enhance their ideological knowledge, sense of responsibility, and party consciousness; build themselves firm and strong; and actively fulfill their assigned missions and contribute to strengthening friendship between the Vietnamese and Soviet peoples.

MILITARY

Army General Discusses Current Troop Training

*BK2404050191 Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG
TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Mar 91 pp 3-7*

[Article by General Doan Khue: "It Is Necessary To Correctly Understand The Guiding Thoughts on Military Training in the Current Situation"]

[Text] Resolution No. 2 of the Political Bureau and all resolutions of the party Central Committee's military commission on national defense tasks clearly specify: One of the primary duties of our troops at present is to consolidate and increase their combat strength, actually and firmly improving their general quality. The central and pressing task is to build comprehensively firm and strong primary units. In this connection, we must renovate the scope, organization and method of troop education and training.

In the past two years, the entire Army has exerted much effort to organize and implement the task of building primary units and orient troop education and training along the guideline of "fundamental, practical, and steady," in strict accordance with battlefield realities to meet the specific training requirements and mission of each unit. Initially, we have obtained some encouraging results and experiences.

However, compared to the set training requirements, tasks, and norms, the results obtained are still low and inconsistent. Improvement has been slow and unsteady. Training quality in many units remains poor. Training scope is somewhat unrealistic. The quality of troops in many respects has not met the requirements of their tasks.

To overcome these deficiencies, while there are long-term tasks we must do, there are also tasks we must carry out immediately according to specific programs and plans. The fundamental issue is to thoroughly and profoundly understand the guiding thoughts on training troops in the current situation.

First of all, it is necessary to improve the knowledge of all leaders and commanders of all ranks and branches about the troop education and training tasks. Distracted recently by many works and due to their failure to realize correctly and adequately the need, leaders and commanders of some units and branches have neglected the task of providing guidance for troop education and training, considering it as other routine duties of no urgency. In some instances, the education and training

tasks have been handed down for underwriting by training agencies and detachment leaders. Leadership, manpower, and material assets have not been properly invested in troop training. Harmonious coordination is still lacking in the conduct of training. The new training scope is not linked to old experiences. The training organization and method have not been closely associated with the training scope, objectives, and conditions.

Although troop education and training is routine work, it constantly changes depending on the situation and tasks, and it involves many new factors and new ingredients. In providing training guidance, it is essential to avoid rigid, mechanical, and stereotypical application of ready patterns. We must be very specific, practical, and dynamic in both ideological knowledge and in leading and guiding the work and in determining measures to organize and implement the work.

Troop education and training are now facing many difficulties. Besides the socioeconomic problems of the country, other problems have arisen from the reorganization of forces, the consolidation of staff organization, and the assurance of living conditions and activities... All these have affected the material and moral lives, minds, and sentiments of our cadres and combatants, and the results of training in the struggle to build the Army. We believe that the socioeconomic situation of our country will change for the better. Yet, in the next few years, it is still impossible for us to adequately meet the requirements of building our Army into a standardized and modern one. We must proceed from the realities of our country and Army to raise the question of how to build and train troops and to what extent training will be right, adequate, and relevant to the situation and mission.

We must thoroughly understand and creatively apply the party's military line in conformity with the new conditions, situation, and tasks of national defense to protect the socialist regime and build the country. We must study and understand thoroughly the guiding thoughts of the party Central Committee's military commission resolution on the 1991 military tasks in order to centralize leadership, guidance, and command, and to take many truly dynamic measures to accelerate vigorously the task of building and training troops in primary units. We must proceed from the assessment of realities in our own units to correctly determine realistic training content for effective implementation. This is currently both the highest political responsibility and the genuine revolutionary sentiment of leaders and commanders of all ranks and all branches for their units and the young generations in the Army. Once all troops have thoroughly understood this task, they will love their duties, have a high sense of responsibility to their units, and will strenuously struggle in undergoing training. Only then can the task of building and training troops be accelerated quickly and effectively.

Second, we must know how to proceed from the realistic conditions of the country, the Army's tasks and our

capability of providing weapons and other necessary equipment to the armed forces in order to educate and train troops so that they can know how to fight and defeat the enemy by our weapons on hand and by our own tactics. Tactics are the core of combat arts and a very rich and constantly developing field. To eradicate an enemy, there might be many tactics and many different ways to use forces and apply various combat measures and maneuvers. Facts have shown that, to counter a modern enemy, there must not necessarily be all the modern weapons and technical equipment. The best tactic is the most effective one with which we use our weapons and technical equipment to attain the highest efficiency and to optimally develop the integrated quality of our troops. During recent training, some combatants proved that they knew how to skillfully apply combat tactics: When assigned the task of running over an enemy firing position in a fortification, they knew how to take advantage of an empty space in the combat trenches to use a diversionary tactic by hanging their helmets on the muzzle of their rifles. Then, they themselves left the trenches and secretly approached the flanks and launched grenades to wipe out the enemy firing position.

In raising the question of training troops, especially in infantry units, to defeat the enemy with the small arms available in their units, some people have not concurred with this viewpoint because of their differing perception of realities. Some held that such a way is too involved and difficult and aimed at lowering the struggle objective. It is right that we at one time paid much attention to the establishment of Army corps and divisional groups of several armed services, and conducted many large-scale command and staff exercises with the participation of various modern armed branches and services. In the future, we still need to organize large-scale exercises. The scope of these exercises, of course, should be studied to suit the real situation. Since all potentials change with time and various supportive conditions, we should not cling to those potentials that have gradually lost their reality but we must objectively and correctly assess the supportive conditions, seize by all means the real potential, and orient all activities in accordance with laws. From the realities of combat and construction, victory, and growth of our Army, we have derived the valuable experiences and lessons that, if we know how to proceed from realities, grasp the rules, act by the law, and create conditions for the law to bear effect to our advantage, then we will succeed. As a result, to guide all action, we must know how to conduct research and experiments in order to draw the most correct conclusions from realities.

In the coming years, we must train troops to meet the requirements of combat preparedness for defending the country. At the same time, we must know how to coordinate with other armed forces to protect the party, the administration, and the socialist regime.

Regular Army units must be well trained in combat, concentrating on the use of small arms on hand and

equipment authorized in the table of organization and equipment so that they can fight well when reinforced. They must be forged for high mobility to fulfill the combat duties on all battlefields.

Regional forces will be trained in fighting in the provincial (city) area of defense. They must know how to assemble or disperse flexibly in order to eradicate, wear down, intercept, trail, raid, and ambush the enemy, to attack enemy communication facilities, and to infiltrate and attack the enemy flanks and then return.

Other forces will be trained in maintaining and raising their technical and tactical standards, in combining training with combat preparedness, and in the maintenance and safe and economical use of weapons and equipment.

Third, along with renovating the scope of training, we should improve the organization and methods to suit realities, training objectives, and conditions. We must especially establish managerial and operational control over training, depending on the decentralization: Cadres of higher ranks will teach those of lower ranks, and commanders will teach detachments and units under their control. We resolutely oppose substitution. In training, we must apply all the results of training to support one another and neutralize a person or to infiltrate a detachment or a unit. We must pay particular attention to promoting democracy; imbue responsibility, activity, self-consciousness, initiative, and creativity; link theory to reality, practice; and impart combat experiences and traditions to the younger generations.

Fourth, training must be augmented with administration, education, and obedience to regulations and orders. One of the reasons for the limited results, decreased combat strength, and increase of indisciplined troops affecting Army-people relations and Army prestige and tradition is that education and training in following rules and orders have not been effective.

In 1991, the ministry will issue new regulations on troop management. Correctly understood, troop management is the adequate and comprehensive management of persons, weapons, equipment, supplies, assets, finance, work, living conditions, activities, duties and benefits of all soldiers.

Along with political education, ideological leadership, training, and equipment, and logistical and technical support, the entire Army must educate and train soldiers to execute orders in a fundamental and systematic fashion so as to bring about really drastic and consistent changes in developing the practices of a regular army in all Army units. Improvements made must be maintained to minimize cases of indiscipline.

The compliance with Army rules and orders depends on each soldier, and especially on the exemplary vanguard role of cadres and party members. Cadres must be responsible to their units; understand the scope of education and training; manage, educate, and train troops in

observing regulations and orders, not only in theory, viewpoints, and principles, but also by their action. Cadres must therefore build themselves. Units must conduct drills and advanced training and unify the scope and processes of training. All agencies, schools, and units should launch a movement to live by the Constitution, laws, and rules for there to be consistent changes.

Fifth, to improve the quality and efficiency of training, we must be instilled with the need to continue to strengthen grassroots units. The task of strengthening grassroots units involves many domains, such as stabilizing the organization and staff; improving education and training; ensuring material, cultural, and spiritual life; and increasing the management of troops in all aspects. Experience has shown that we cannot achieve quality and efficiency by having any one sector or echelon carry out any one of these tasks separately. This also cannot be achieved by those at regiment as well as campaign and strategic levels. To ensure that troops are able to fulfill assignments, have superior fighting strength, are vigilant and prepared against all schemes and tricks of hostile forces, we must strengthen them in all aspects, with politics being the basis and military training being the center.

Over the past two years, we have experimented with this task, according to the five specific requirements. This was an undertaking carried out on a good theoretical basis. At the same time, it was based on actual situations and tasks, on calculations of soldiers' capabilities, and on the upper echelon's ability to concentrate investment and to ensure the provision of supplies. The strong, steady progress in the regiments chosen as pilot units in this experiment is a good sign which encourages us to resolutely choose to concentrate our resources on building comprehensively stable and strong units one by one. If all Army divisions and brigades concentrate efforts on making one unit strong every year—one regiment this year and another the next—in several year's time the entire Army will be strengthened to serve as the foundation for building a regular and increasingly modern people's Army for our country.

The guiding thoughts on building up and training troops among grassroots units set forth in the resolution had been acquired from practical development and training activities during the past two years. These thoughts must be implanted deeply in the entire Army, especially among the contingent of leading and commanding cadres.

The year 1991 marks the start of the 1991-95 plan and the convening of the Seventh Party Congress. It is hoped that it will also be the year when the entire Army makes changes in the building of grassroots units, as well as improving the quality of troop education and training.

Suggestions on Training, Use of Officers

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DAN in Vietnamese Jan 91 pp 70-75

[Article by Major Dinh Ky Nam]

[Text] Viewed from the standpoint of training and use, our ranks of military officers have the following special characteristics:

1. Almost all of the officers were trained and forged in the war for national liberation. During the war, officers usually took short training classes to give timely support to the battlefield. Thus, a number of subjects that were not necessary were eliminated. That was correct and necessary. But because of this, the standards of the officers in general are not comprehensive. They lack a foundation and have not satisfied today's requirements and tasks. On the other hand, implementing the policy of revising the strategy and reducing the size of the standing army, almost all of the officers from the time of the resistance against France—cadres who have much experience—who had held command and leadership positions in the operations and strategy echelons and many younger officers who participated in the struggle against the United States are now retiring, changing sectors, or being demobilized. Because this is being carried out quickly, without making careful preparations and without thoroughly understanding the special characteristics, requirements, or organizational model of the Army in the new stage, today's ranks of cadres are very uneven.

2. For several years now, large investments have been made in the schools and so notable progress has been made. The military schools have trained a large number of officers with relatively basic standards. In just five years, the percentage of cadres who have attended one of these schools has increased from 87.6 percent (in 1986) to 94 percent (in 1989). Of these, 49.1 percent have undergone basic training. Besides this, the Army has seven postgraduate installations (of these, six are academies). During the past four years, 55 people have earned their master's degree in various branches of military science.

However, because there are economic and social difficulties, because the practical viewpoints in training have not been understood thoroughly, and because some of the policies, measures, and steps are inappropriate, the quality of the cadres graduating from school has not satisfied the requirements. The students who have graduated have not manifested the results of their training and are confused when performing their duties at the units and when organizing and carrying out training.

The system of military schools was organized in a relatively synchronized manner, but it is rather cumbersome and is not in accord with the economic conditions or requirements of building the Army in peacetime. Although the military schools are part of the state's system of schools, the level of instruction varies, and

there is a tendency to keep things "closed" in training. As a result, full use is not made of everyone's capabilities, particularly the capabilities of the civilian schools.

Building the ranks of officers consists of many elements, from training to use, from projects to plans, management, and so on. Below, I would like to talk about the content of the first elements, training and use.

1. Training

In training officers, the units always impose two requirements on the schools: adequacy in terms of numbers and military skills and quality.

The first requirement is to determine specialties, formulate training targets, and then organize a rational training system.

Today, the tendency in organizing school systems and training processes is to have open and specialized systems because of the broad linkage in training. Linkage between schools in and outside the military will fully exploit the material base to support training and make good use of the ranks of instructors, particularly the excellent instructors who have teaching experience. Linking training will also satisfy the need to promptly exchange the newest information concerning scientific and technical achievements, military science, and so on, and will help apply these in training. Besides this, linkage in training will make it possible to organize a rational system of schools and ensure good results.

Our system of military schools has been organized in a "closed" manner. The branches of service, military regions, and corps all have their own cadre training schools. Because of keeping things closed like this, there are many schools that provide training only for their sector or branch of service. Because of this, the school system is cumbersome.

In order to eliminate these irrational aspects and improve the quality of training, the military schools recently began carrying on horizontal linkage in training based on a school-school model. For example, the linkage between the Military Technical Academy and a number of service schools in training engineers or the stage-1 training of the officer schools at Infantry Officers School No. 1 can be regarded as a form of coordinated training. However, linkage in training between the military schools has not been carried on very much, and there is almost no linkage between the military schools and the civilian schools.

The school system and the quality of the training can also be improved by organizing an integrated type of training base in order to train junior officers and train tactical-strategic level officers for a particular sector or branch of service, which means implementing a vertical linkage model.

Implementing Resolution 115/NQ-DU of the Standing Committee of the Military Commission of the party Central Committee on schools, the military schools have

revised the training targets "based on functions, particularly the initial and key functions."¹ Thus, overall, the training targets of the military schools are now rational. Here, I would like to mention two problems.

First, with respect to the technical cadres, the situation is as follows: Students must study for five years to earn an engineering degree at the Military Technical Academy. Middle-level technical students at various service officers schools must study for only three years. On graduating, both types of students are commissioned as second lieutenants. As a result of this, the middle-level technical officers don't have any "ground" for long-term development in the technical rolls (officers must rise in rank and position while the technical units need highly skilled cadres). Thus, many technical officers must leave to work for state organizations. The result is that the schools constantly have to train people, but the bases still lack technical cadres. In view of this, only engineers and those with equivalent qualifications should be made officers. Middle-level technical cadres should not be made officers. Instead, suitable policies and measures should be implemented to make long-term use of these people.

Second, the military schools are part of the system of state schools. The officer schools are by regulation equivalent to civilian colleges and high-level schools. However, the intensity of the training at the military schools and colleges and high-level schools is not the same. Today, the training of the officer schools can be raised to the college level. This will enable officers to serve the military better and make it possible to implement the existing regulations. Moreover, this will also make it possible for officers to find work in the economic and social sectors once they have left military service.

The second requirement concerns organizing training and implementing the education-training process at the schools.

The quality of officer training depends on many factors, such as the curriculum, the standards of the instructors, the material base to support training, and so on. Of these, the most important factor is the curriculum. Today, thanks to applying the scientific and technical advances to the military sphere, the weapons and means of combat have constantly been improved and renovated. Thus, the common tendency is basic training. Only if they have basic knowledge will the officers be able to use their knowledge in a variety of situations in combat and in peacetime activities. The development of the curriculum and selection of the content must be done in a basic and systematic way. "But the focus must be on practical problems based on the targets for training cadres for the various echelons and sectors and ensuring that the cadres can manifest an effect in the first position assigned them and that they have the ability to grow and assume other posts."² Officers who have left school cannot go through a probationary period like engineers who have graduated from a civilian college. For them, war does not provide any "rough drafts." It is something

that seriously tests their skills. Thus, the training curriculum must "give much attention to forging practical skills and the ability to organize, command, lead, manage, and train troops in peacetime activities and in combat."³ Naturally, depending on the level of study and the military, political, and technical training targets, the percentage of time devoted to practice will differ. For detachment commanders, this must comprise at least 50-70 percent of the time depending on the type of cadre.

Within the time allotted, to teach many subjects, there must be suitable training methods. The tendency today is to reduce the time spent in lectures (training time with instructors) to a minimum. Depending on the level of training, lecture time can be reduced to 26-30 periods a week (previously, there were 30-36 periods a week)⁴ in order to increase the time that students spend studying on their own. Students must actively participate in the training process, from lesson approval (so that students can participate in formulating the lessons) to inspections and examinations. Many training forms, such as debates and group study, must be used so that students can develop their thinking and contribute to turning the training process into self-training.

2. Using the Ranks of Officers

Training an officer is a very painstaking and expensive process. But that can be compensated for if the officer, after leaving school, manifests the results of his training.

The first condition for enabling an officer to manifest his capabilities is to assign him to the right place and use him in the sector for which he was trained. In reality, there have been many cases in which officers have been "posted to the wrong place." This has created difficulties for the units receiving these officers.

An important problem when employing cadres is initial training, because there is always a "gap" between the schools and the units from the standpoint of training. Furthermore, each unit has its own traditions and specific stipulations in accord with its special characteristics and tasks. Many unit heads "forget" the effect of this initial training. Cadres who have just arrived become confused, and they waste much time trying to understand things and becoming accustomed to their new surroundings. Because of this, cadres are sometimes evaluated incorrectly.

Even if the training is quite basic and even if the training has been "broad in scope with rational specialization during the training process,"⁵ officers who want to carry out their tasks well and who want to rise to higher positions in the future must study and struggle on their own to improve their standards. It must be realized that for many reasons, today, self-study to improve the standards of the cadres has produced few results. Except for a number of cadres and officers who regularly immerse themselves in their studies in order to improve their professional standards, most officers are afraid of studying and doing research. Their standards gradually decline with the passage of time.

In the self-study efforts by officers, the attention and concern shown by the various echelon commanders play a very important role. This attention and concern must be manifested concretely, from arranging time and organizing (team and group) classes by sector to providing information and supplying data. Self-study to raise standards must be coordinated with the annual training program of the cadres, such as command and staff training and political training. Self-study and self-training should be organized by specialized units, with studying technical subjects being primary. If things are organized well and if evaluating the results of the cadres' self-study are coordinated with the annual cadre evaluations and use, the effects of this work will be even greater.

To make good use of the cadres, the evaluation and promotion of cadres plays an important, if not decisive, role. Only if cadres are evaluated correctly can they be used correctly. The capabilities and qualities of the cadres must be evaluated based on the results achieved in carrying out the tasks assigned and not on their attitude toward the tasks or toward higher echelons. And they cannot be evaluated in a general way on their political qualities or background or the work process.

In promoting cadres, there must be stipulations concerning the responsibilities of the managing cadres and commanders toward those being promoted. "Steps must be taken to avoid the situation in which the people in charge do not have the authority or are not responsible for selecting the cadres under them."⁶ In order to ensure that cadre promotions are handled correctly, "the decisions on cadre work must be made collectively based on democratically examining the ideas of the organizations and individuals concerned."⁷

Another problem that must be given attention is that, in principle, officers serve in the Army according to the laws and general stipulations. However, every type of officer has his own special characteristics. Thus, besides the general regulations, there must also be separate stipulations for a number of types of special officers. For example, with respect to research cadres (at the ministerial organizations, departments, and institutes) and instructional cadres, the stipulations on age and rank can include separate regulations in order to make maximum use of their capabilities, interests, and work results.

Training and use are two important problems in building ranks of cadres. They are closely related to each other and will achieve good results if there are rational training and use policies and, in particular, if there is a comprehensive plan on cadre work. Based on the strategy of defending the fatherland, a comprehensive and long-term plan on cadre training and use must be formulated. Then, specific training and use plans can be formulated for each sector and branch more quickly.

Footnotes

1. Resolution 115 NQ-DU of the Standing Committee of the Military Commission of the party Central Committee of 24 May 1988, p. 7.
2. Resolution 115/NQ, p. 18.
3. Ibid.
4. VPA [Vietnam People's Army] School Statute, Article 73.
5. Resolution 115/QD-DU, p. 16.
6. Ibid.
7. Congress Minutes, "Political Report at the Sixth Party Congress," Su That Publishing House, Hanoi, 1987, p. 135.

Call Made To Improve Officer Recruitment

912E0147B Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Jan 91 pp 66-70

[Article by Lt. Col. Nguyen Te Nhi]

[Text] "Inputs" are one of the important, if not decisive, factors that determine the training quality of the officer schools and academies. Creating sources of recruits for the officer schools is very important, because the officer schools are the places where detachment—platoon, company, and battalion—leaders are trained and where the ideas and resolve of higher echelons are transformed into reality. To have a strong army that can fight and work well, there must be strong detachments, the core of which are cadres who have been trained at officer schools. Second, the outputs of the officer schools are the future inputs of the academies. The recruitment of officer candidates today is the preparatory step for training high-level officers and commanders for the Army of tomorrow. Thus, creating sources of recruits for the officer schools is a task not only for the next several years but also for the next 20-30 years. It is a task not only of the officer schools but also of units throughout the Army. This is a task not only of the Army but also of the entire country.

For many years now, the officer schools have recruited people based on a voluntary entrance examination mechanism. In recent years, because of the requirements and tasks, the number of people recruited each year has declined greatly as compared with previous years. The officer schools have selected people from among military personnel with at least one year of active duty. A number of academies that train college-level officers (engineers, doctors, and so on) have received permission to recruit a certain percentage of students. But the officer schools have never fulfilled the planned recruitment norms. The infantry officers and the political and military affairs officers schools have missed the recruitment norms by the widest mark. For example, in 1988, overall, in recruiting people into the officer schools, 82 percent of

the plan was fulfilled. In 1989, the percentage was 57 percent. But the infantry officers schools fulfilled only 40-50 percent of the plan.

In 1990, because of the efforts and high resolve of the schools, units, and various echelon recruitment organizations and because of the correct and practical policies and measures, recruitment into the officer schools achieved good results. Notably, for the first time in many years, Infantry Officers School 1 and the Political and Military Affairs Officers School exceeded the planned recruitment norms. However, there were still schools that reached only a low mark (56 percent) and so the Army as a whole fulfilled only about 90 percent of the officer candidate recruitment plan. Although cadets no longer feigned illness as an excuse for not doing the exercises or intentionally did the exercises incorrectly in order to "be judged incorrectly," a number of schools still had to dismiss a large number of cadets at the very beginning (the percentage dismissed being 20-30 percent and some schools having to dismiss as many as 65 percent because of the cadets' lack of desire to study). On the other hand, recruitment into the officer schools has not attracted many ethnic minority youths or military personnel from the south. Some schools have not recruited students from these two targets for many consecutive years. At a number of schools that have recruited youths, the percentage of military personnel who have passed the examinations is lower than that for youths.

Based on recruitment results in recent years, particularly in 1990, the following problems can be seen:

1. Creating recruitment sources is the common task of every sector and echelon. In places where the leaders and commanders give the proper amount of attention to this, good results will be achieved.

It must be understood that creating recruitment sources is a task of all of society, of all the people, and of all military units from the ministry to the primary level. In places where the unit commanders give attention to this task and personally spread propaganda, guide the work, and supervise the organizations, the recruitment activities there will be carried on effectively. From monitoring the creation of recruitment sources, two erroneous tendencies can be seen: Seeing that soldiers are afraid to take the officers course, a number of unit commanders have concluded that these people are afraid of difficulties. They say that, in accord with the voluntary mechanism, anyone who wants to go can do so. These units usually do a poor job in fulfilling the recruitment norms (the percentage for Military Region E was only 27.2 percent and that for Corps D was only 19.6 percent). At the other extreme, a number of unit commanders have recruited people using the model "do things halfway and register people." They have used administrative measures and pressure by the mass organizations (the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, party chapters, and so on) to get enough soldiers to go to the schools to take the examinations without any thought to the aspirations and

preferences of the individuals involved. As a result, after passing the examination, a number of soldiers submit petitions asking to quit the school (the initial dismissal rate at Officers School X reached 21.6 percent, of whom 65 percent were dismissed because they did not want to be there).

Creating recruitment sources is also the task of the training installations. The schools must actively carry on propaganda activities and introduce their schools to the military personnel and youths in the locality instead of just waiting. Reality has shown that, recently, a number of schools have actively participated in recruitment activities (they have organized things to spread propaganda and have sent experienced instructors to guide the examinations). As a result, recruitment at schools such as Infantry Officers School 1 and the Political and Military Affairs Officers School has achieved results.

This is also the responsibility of the localities, particularly at the village and subward echelons. The localities are responsible above all for recommending the outstanding youths in the locality to the military schools. Some local schools have let bad elements, people with unclear backgrounds, or people who have violated political standards into the officers schools. The practical activities in implementing the military rear policies also have a great effect in encouraging servicemen and youths to take entrance examinations to the officers schools.

Besides this, in creating recruitment sources, if the organizations, units, and localities exploit the role of the mass organizations, such as the youths' and women's organizations and the Veterans' Association, in spreading propaganda, making recommendations, and mobilizing servicemen and youths to register for the entrance examinations to the officers schools and encouraging them to choose the military as their struggle path, the results will be even better.

2. To have recruitment achieve good results, attention must be given to creating sources, and creating sources and recruiting people must be regarded as a unified process.

For many reasons, the number of servicemen who have graduated from general middle school is gradually declining, and there are even servicemen who are illiterate. According to inspection documents at a number of main-force units in Military Region 4, in 1987, of the 10,330 soldiers, only 292 had sufficient cultural standards to take the officer school entrance examination (graduation from general middle school). By 1998, of the 7,789 soldiers, only 114 had the standards needed to take the test. Thus, if people are recruited without giving any attention to creating recruitment sources, it will be difficult to recruit enough officer cadets, particularly ethnic minority youths and servicemen from the south. The work of creating sources must hit two targets:

Educate and provide vocational guidance to servicemen and youths so that they build their sense of responsibility and voluntarily strive to become officers.

Make cultural preparations for the servicemen and youths who lack adequate cultural standards (who have not graduated from general middle school) but who have political awareness and good moral qualities and who have the desire and capabilities to enter an officers school.

Besides this, creating recruitment sources is also aimed at helping servicemen who graduated from general middle school but who have lived in localities (rural or mountainous areas) that did not have good educational conditions or who left school a long time ago, who have been serving in the Army for several years, and who have forgotten what they learned in school. This will enable them to review and systematically relearn things.

Thus, in creating sources, the main goal is to "prepare people." The emphasis must be on political and moral qualities, aspirations, and military capabilities. Cultural knowledge is secondary. Attention must not be focused just on cultural training.

A few proposals:

1. To ensure that good results are achieved in creating sources and recruiting candidates for the officers schools, there must be flexibility, with priority given to the occupations of the future officers. This means that attention must be given to the special characteristics, needs, and tasks of the cadre targets—command cadres, research cadres, technical cadres—in order to put forth rational principles and standards. We know that the targets of the integrated branch commanders are people—the cadres and soldiers under their command. Thus, leadership capabilities are the leading requirement for them, but scientific and technical knowledge and knowledge of the social sciences cannot be slighted. The main targets of the technical officers and research cadres are research topics, machines, and means of combat. The leading requirement for them is a talent for and love of scientific research. Besides this, a number of special military occupations have special requirements such as freedom from seasickness for people in the Navy and the ability to swim for those who engage in special water operations. Thus, in recruiting people to serve as integrated branch commanders, priority should be given to military personnel and people who are familiar with military life and who have formed command and leadership practices. For occupations, priority should be given to youths, and for officers who require special skills, people should be selected based on those requirements (for example, the sources of naval officers are youths and servicemen from coastal areas).

2. In wartime, military personnel are assembled from among the outstanding youths of each region of the country. In peacetime, because few military personnel are recruited and because priority is given to training scientific cadres, some of the outstanding youths are selected to attend civilian colleges. Thus, if only servicemen are selected to attend the officers schools, the quality of the "inputs" will be greatly limited. This is in

fact what has happened. We all recognize that the ranks of military officers are a valuable asset of the military, and when then change sectors, they can serve as leaders and managers, scientists, and high-level technicians in the state sectors. Thus, there must be a rational policy in recruiting a certain percentage of youths into the officers schools, perhaps 30-50 percent, particularly with respect to the Military Technology Academy, the Medical Officers Academy, and a number of command and technology schools.

3. The system of cultural classes at the officers schools and military region administration schools must be maintained and improved in order to provide cultural training for the recruitment sources and supplementary cultural education for the officers, particularly the ethnic minority recruitment targets. Along with this, the creation of recruitment sources must be tied to the cadre use plans of each unit. In order to heighten the responsibility of the units, they must be entrusted with the task of creating recruitment sources for the officers schools based on the cadre use needs of their unit. Of course, this must be in accord with the plans and needs of the entire Army and nation.

4. There should be research guidelines so that the military schools can provide a college-level education or vocational education to the officers during the training process. The ranks of officers will be gradually filtered during combat operations and work. Not everyone will serve their whole life in the military. Only about 20 percent of the officers will rise to become high-level cadres and serve in the military their entire life. Because of this, providing a college-level education and teaching vocational skills to the officers will enable officers who have left military service to work in organizations, units, and economic organizations and to contribute to building the country and stabilizing their lives. This will give officers peace of mind while serving in the military and enable youths and servicemen to accept the military path as a career, which means that recruitment activities will have achieved results. On the other hand, training officers so that they have college standards implements a state regulation: "The system of schools of the Vietnam People's Army lies within the system of colleges, vocational middle schools, and Marxist-Leninist colleges of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam."¹

Footnote

1. Statute on VPA [Vietnam People's Army] Schools, Article 1.

Elements of New Troop Management Law Outlined

912E0142C Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 28 Feb 91 p 2

[Article by Bui Chuan]

[Text] During the 10 years since it was promulgated in 1980-1981, the General Order has, in general, satisfied

the requirements concerning building the regular Army and contributed to completion of the combat and combat readiness tasks by the Army, defending the fatherland, completing the labor tasks and building the country, and fulfilling its international obligations. But in the face of the new developments taking place in the country and the development tasks of the Army, a number of the elements of the order are no longer suitable and need to be revised. At the same time, the legal documents and policies of the party, state, and military that have been promulgated since the Sixth Party Congress need to be concretized.

In order to satisfy the military construction requirements in the new situation, the Ministry of National Defense recently promulgated the Troop Management Law (TML) for uniform implementation throughout the military. The Troop Management Law was drafted on the basis of older disciplinary and defense regulations in accord with the motto: "Retain the correct elements and eliminate the incorrect ones; revise the elements that are inappropriate and supplement the new elements." The Troop Management Law has maintained unity, fully manifests a spirit of democracy, elevates the concept of awareness in implementation, and clarifies the responsibilities of each soldier and commander in implementing the order. The contents of this new order are in accord with Vietnamese practices. It is concise, easy to understand and remember, and easy to implement. It defines the basic problems but is not overly specific, because secondary to this order are the orders, stipulations, and guidelines of the various sectors.

The Troop Management Law consists of an introduction, eight chapters, and seven appendixes. The introduction defines the problems concerning the position, tasks, traditional nature, and major viewpoints of the military, the leadership principles of the party with respect to the military, the one-commander mechanism, the guidelines for building the military, and the scope in implementing this order. Chapter 1, which consists of 6 sections and 25 articles, defines the position and functions of military personnel, commanders, deputy commanders, heads of organizations, and soldiers and the general relationships of military personnel and commanders. It also describes the rights and interests of military personnel. Chapter 2, which consists of 12 articles, stipulates how servicemen are to behave and forms of address when talking with superiors. It also contains general stipulations on military dress. Chapter 3, which consists of 6 sections and 60 articles, stipulates how long people are to work each day and each week, with the work and activities organized according to the daily and weekly operations procedures of the troops at the primary units. It sets forth stipulations on organizing an on-duty system and the functions of the duty officers at the companies, battalions, and organizations. It contains stipulations on issuing training alerts and maintaining secrecy and describes a number of the work procedures of commanders. Chapter 4, which contains 6

sections and 64 articles, sets forth stipulations on stationing troops and managing zones in which large numbers of military units are stationed. It stipulates the functions of the commanders of zones in which troops are stationed. It also contains stipulations on military control organizations, on military personnel leaving the camps, and on keeping guard and preventing and controlling fires, explosions, floods, and other disasters. Chapter 5, which consists of three sections and nine articles, stipulates the scope of the responsibilities of servicemen and commanders at all levels in managing troops strength and quality and the health of the soldiers. Chapter 6, which consists of 3 sections and 89 articles, sets forth stipulations on managing the equipment, materials, assets, and finances. It includes various stipulations and measures and the responsibilities of servicemen and commanders at various echelons in managing the weapons, equipment, motorcycles, military uniforms, gasoline and oil, food, medicines, and medical equipment. It also contains stipulations on managing the camps and finances within the scope of the unit. Chapter 7 stipulates the principles in rewarding and punishing military personnel and organizing the military and other targets when carrying out tasks in the military. It describes the forms and powers related to giving rewards and punishments. It stipulates the principles and the way to give rewards and punishments. Chapter 8 stipulates rights, principles, and procedures in implementing the right of servicemen to file complaints and accusations and the responsibilities and powers of the various echelon commanders and functional organizations in resolving such matters.

The seven appendixes concretize a number of the essential themes and stipulations and unify a number of conflicting work documents and records based on the stipulations of the Troop Management Law.

This law was promulgated to serve as a basis for building a regular army in today's situation. This is essential to the cadres and soldiers in carrying out their tasks. The chief of the General Staff has directed the entire military to study and implement this law beginning in 1991. To ensure that the law is implemented well and that things proceed smoothly right from the very beginning, the Troop Management Law must be propagandized widely in the mass media. Study sessions must be organized among the leaders and commanders and at the various echelon organizations. The servicemen must be educated and trained. A study and action emulation movement must be launched in accord with the order in all the units. This must be regarded as an important political task in order to increase the combat strength of the units.

Khanh Hoa Coordinates Economy, National Defense

912E0147A Hanoi TAP CHI QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN in Vietnamese Jan 91 pp 43-49

[Article by Bui Hong Thai, secretary of the Khanh Hoa Provincial CPV Committee]

[Text] In carrying out the national defense tasks in the localities, we have often wondered: "In view of the fact

that the viewpoints and lines of the party on national defense and security are correct and clear and the Provincial CPV Committee and Provincial People's Committee have invested much thought and time and large quantities of materials, why is the real situation in the localities still so different from what is called for in the policies? Why are problems that have been concretized still so complex and intractable? How can they be solved? Which problems?" We would like to give a few ideas aimed at contributing to fulfilling the "national defense task of our country, which is to defend the fatherland, the socialist system, and the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the entire country."¹

We feel that the the first thing is to correctly evaluate the national defense and security situation in the country as a whole and in each locality.

As the draft program states: Our country is "entering the stage of peaceful socialist construction." But it must also be seen that "this peace is not stable or complete. There are still many hot spots that could easily flare up into local armed conflicts or war."² The imperialists, led by the U.S. imperialists, international reactionaries, and anticommunist forces, have not abandoned their dark plots against the revolutions in the three Indochinese countries. This includes Vietnam, a target that they consider to be the "final outpost of orthodox socialism" (Voice of America, 23 May 1990). They are trying to destroy the Vietnamese revolution using economic, political, and psychological measures, and they have even started armed conflicts when possible. The enemy is continuing to carry on a strategy of all-round destruction in Vietnam. The eastern seaboard area and the border areas of the fatherland have never been truly calm. It should be noted that the plots of our external enemies are being abetted and supported by our internal enemies, their lackeys. These are mainly former puppet soldiers and puppet authorities who have refused to reform and the leaders of political organizations and reactionary parties and factions that have sprung up. These enemies have created political and social instability, and if they have an "opportunity," they will try to topple the regime. Clearly, the "calm" and "peace" in many localities and areas is not real. Khanh Hoa is now called a "type-2" province, but the political and social situation is still very complex. The enemy within the area has reunited the reactionary elements that were evacuated and used this situation to rouse the reactionary organizations, destroy the revolution, encourage the masses to demand "people's livelihood" and "democracy," and spread propaganda about the unwholesome way of life in Western countries, which has had a bad effect on the people, particularly our children and youths. Every year for the past several years, Khanh Hoa has discovered many reactionary organizations and uncovered many cases of people trying to cross the sea illegally, with this having been organized. Many of the

reactionary leaders waiting in the shadows are waiting for a chance to rise up and destroy the revolution. Many reactionary parties and factions and reactionary forces in religious organizations are engaging in activities in order to gain power. Thus, we must analyze and evaluate the situation scientifically and accurately, and we must be very "active" if we are to put forth suitable and effective policies and measures in carrying out the national defense and security tasks in the localities.

We are in complete agreement with the party's draft program on the need to "closely coordinate the economy with national defense and national defense with the economy in the economic and social development plans. Developing the economy must go hand in hand with strengthening our national defense potential. An all-people's national defense base must be built, and high-quality people's armed forces must be built.

Coordinating the economy with national defense in the localities and building provincial and district defense zones is a correct policy. Khanh Hoa feels that consolidating the national defense and security front, the political front, and the "will of the people" front; developing the economy and society; and improving the standard of living of the people in the localities are tasks that must be carried on simultaneously. In the economic and social plan, our locality has tied this to defending the coast, defending the bases at sea, on the islands, and along the coast, and controlling illegal sea crossings. Conversely, when formulating national defense plans from the province to the bases, attention must always be given to the central task of developing the economy and production. In building defense projects in the locality, we have balanced things carefully in order to avoid spending too much, while ensuring that the project has practical significance in terms of the economy and national defense. These projects have been included in the general economic, social, and national defense plan of the locality. In peacetime, these are just plans, and decisions are made on the spot. Naturally, things are different with respect to the islands, particularly the outer islands. Besides expanding the combat works and tunnels, there are also many other things that must be given attention, such as purifying drinking water for the troops and people. On the mainland, the terrain, vegetation, and existing projects left by the enemy must be exploited. This way of doing things is cheap, and secrecy can be maintained. And in tourist areas such as Nha Trang and "natural projects," this will not ruin their beauty or affect tourism.

Khanh Hoa has strived to implement the viewpoint on coordinating the economy with national defense. In the province, we have discovered many good models such as the Nha Trang Textile Plant and a number of coastal villages, particularly Dien An Village in Dien Khanh District. Unfortunately, we have not multiplied these good examples throughout the province. In the coming period, we will strive to overcome the above shortcoming. We hope that the press, broadcasting stations, and mass media organizations will help us review the

experiences and introduce their own models. Through this, we will be able to study things and build a better model in solidifying all-people's national defense.

We also hope that higher-echelon leadership organizations will inform us about the operating experiences of the party's leadership mechanism with respect to national defense tasks in the localities. When something happens, the secretary must somehow help solve the problems and facilitate the assembly of people just as during the recent defense zone maneuvers. They must somehow find time to guide both the economic and the national defense tasks in the locality.

The second matter that I want to discuss today is the building of people's armed forces.

The draft program states that "building people's armed forces is the task of the state and people under the leadership and party" and the "quality of the people's armed forces must be improved constantly." This viewpoint is completely correct and very clear. But how is this to be done?

First of all, it must be realized that the building of people's armed forces (consisting of three types of forces: main-force troops, local troops, and militia and self-defense forces) is strongly influenced by the new historical conditions. There is a new relationship between these two strategic tasks. The basic and essential activity in the social life of the people is productive labor. A large share of the potential and material strength of the country must be concentrated on socialist construction and on economic construction and development. Because of this, the people's armed forces must be built in a balanced and suitable manner, and their quality must be improved continually.

The people's army must be built based on the guideline of having a "small but strong" standing army. The size of the army must be reduced in a rational manner, and quality must be improved. The army must be modernized and have a high level of combat readiness. There must be strong reserve forces that are well trained and managed and that are prepared for mobilization in terms of number and quality if war should break out. These must serve as the activists for all the people in defending our socialist Vietnamese fatherland and defeating every type of war of aggression and destruction launched by the enemy.

As for organizing the army, we feel that it should be organized by forming full-strength units based on the table of organization. Only if they are capable of training the troops will results be achieved, and that is the only way to maintain a high level of combat readiness. If it is not possible to establish a division, then one or two good-quality regiments can be established. What this means is that if a unit is organized, that unit must be strong and have good quality.

As for the reserve forces, the quality of the training must be improved, and they must be controlled more tightly

and effectively. We feel that this problem should be handled by the locality. Control and part of the training should be turned over to the local (provincial, district, and village) military organizations. The reserve force management frameworks should be discarded. From monitoring and inspecting these frameworks in Khanh Hoa, we have seen that these frameworks have had very little effect and sometimes they have even harmed the cadres and soldiers.

The local troops are very important forces. They are the hard core forces of the on-the-spot forces and the dependable and essential military "fist" of the local party committee echelons in defending the locality when something unexpected happens. Above all, they participate in suppressing the reactionaries in the locality and putting down antirevolutionary uprisings in the province and districts. Attention must be given to building the local forces so that these forces have the strength necessary to carry out the task of defending the locality. Forces must be organized as appropriate for each area and locality. The forces must not be "averaged" by location but must be concentrated in important places. Besides monitoring enemy activities, attention must be given to the places such as Khanh Hoa Province that have long coastlines, important locations (Nha Trang, Cam Ranh, and so on), and mountainous districts (Khanh Son and Khanh Vinh). Attention must be given to the real situation in localities such as the central provinces that have few main-force units of the ministry or that do have such forces but that have difficulty moving them. In such places, attention must be given to building local forces as appropriate. Within the local forces, mobile forces capable of "rapid deployment" must be formed. It is essential to build local "reconnaissance and special operations" units.

In training the local forces, attention must be given to the combat experiences and capabilities of the localities. It is essential to provide training in technology, special operations tactics, reconnaissance, and enemy control so that these forces can participate in putting down insurrections when necessary. In Khanh Hoa, besides providing the local troops with "reconnaissance and special operations" training, it is also necessary to coordinate things with the ministry's units and the military academies in the province in order to teach a number of the main-force detachments these subjects.

In the present situation, because the national defense budget is limited, the "local force" model of Tien Giang should be studied, because this is suited to the economy and can satisfy the national defense requirements.

The local military organizations, from the province to the villages, must be solidified, and their quality must be improved. In our locality, we have a situation in which "the province says ten, but there is one in the villages." In those places, the national defense plans are implemented slowly with poor results. In order to improve the quality of the local military organizations, besides teaching military and economic subjects and providing

experience in command and guidance, attention must also be given to making changes in the organizations and replacing some of the cadres in order to familiarize the men with the site and work conditions. In deploying cadres, people of various ages should be mixed together so that they can help each other complete the immediate and long-term tasks. An effort must be made to confer ranks by position with respect to the local military cadres (normally, local military cadres are limited in terms of being given a rank and do not have positions) in order to retain the experienced cadres and motivate people to set their minds at ease while working in the locality.

In building military and self-defense forces, to focus on quality, particularly political quality, is completely correct. Organizing militia and self-defense forces in accord with the requirements and real capabilities of the localities and production installations is another practical guideline. For the past several years, we have struggled against formalism, "doing things half way and recording names," and chasing after numbers. But in many places, the number of troops has been reduced too much. The size of the military and self-defense forces has been reduced to the point where the forces do not have the strength necessary to carry out the tasks. We feel that the local party committee echelons, with the staffs of the military organizations, should reexamine the militia and self-defense organizations in their areas to see if things are rational. Is the arrangement of the militia and self-defense cadres and village and subward military unit leaders suitable? The organization of the self-defense forces at the private enterprises should be studied, and the training methods and command organization of the militia and self-defense units stationed along the coast and at sea should be studied to ensure that they are effective.

As for equipment, we must strive to "ensure that the armed forces are equipped better and better." This means that we must gradually provide the forces with modern and highly effective means and weapons. At present, this depends mainly on the country's economic potential and on the country's industrial development in general and on the development of the national defense industry in particular. With the factories and enterprises of the state, although the focus is on the production of products for the people's welfare, technical models must be studied and prepared in order to produce military equipment when necessary. Along with producing various types of goods to support themselves, the national defense plants must also produce military equipment based on their capabilities and the work assigned by the Ministry of National Defense. They can, for example, produce such things as infantry weapons, various types of ammunition, grenades, explosives, and so on. The military regions and provinces should study things to see if there should be a few workshops to produce various types of rudimentary weapons suited to their localities in order to equip the local troops and military and self-defense forces. I have talked with many comrades who used to work at arsenals but who are now retired. They

all told me that it is essential and possible to establish "engineer workshops" in the localities to do these tasks.

With respect to the armed forces, particularly the Army, more than ever before, it is essential to maintain and preserve the existing weapons and equipment, particularly the modern and scarce weapons and equipment, so that good use can be made of these in the coming years. We must avoid writing off vehicles, artillery, and equipment in a disorderly and unprincipled manner and selling items that can still be used or that can be repaired. Resolute steps must be taken to prevent weapons, ammunition, explosives, and military equipment from leaking out, because this could affect the combat strength of the army, cause instability, and disrupt social order and security.

"To maintain the material and spiritual lives of the cadres and soldiers, there are policies suited to the cadres, soldiers, and military rear." This is not the first time that the party has mentioned this problem. But, in reality, the standard of living of the troops is still very low as compared with the standard of living of the commercial production installations, and the families in the military rear have many difficulties as compared with other targets. We think that to solve this problem, on one hand, social policy must pay attention to this problem, and, on the other hand, the military must find a way to deal with this problem within the scope of what is possible in order to improve the men's lives. Have the military units, particularly the units that have stationed troops in fixed locations, made an effort to improve the lives of the troops? We need to study the idea of Secretary General Nguyen Van Linh: "Economic activities require capital. The Ministry of National Defense should conduct studies and submit a report to the government to request capital to produce goods for society and contribute to improving the lives of the troops. An effort must be made to generate capital so that cadres can engage in family economic activities in places where this is possible. In peacetime, family zones should be organized next to the military bases so that the officers, skilled military personnel, and national defense workers can do other work and spend time with their families in their off-duty hours. Naturally, this must be adopted as a state policy, and it must be actively supported by the central echelon and localities."³ We think that if troops engage in family economic activities, they should engage in activities that are sure to be successful (even if they aren't very profitable) such as growing pepper, coffee, and fruit, or raising livestock.

We must also see if the procedures and policies promulgated by the state for the military have actually reached the troops. If they have become stuck somewhere, steps must be taken to free them. Together with the localities, the party committee echelons and authorities must pay attention to creating jobs and production conditions and to stabilizing family matters for the cadres and soldiers who have been transferred or demobilized. In Khanh Hoa, we have made a great effort to solve this problem.

This has helped put the minds of the troops at ease and made them more enthusiastic about their work.

Another problem that I want to discuss is party and political work in the armed forces, particularly in the Army.

Some people mistakenly think that in peacetime, the only task of the Army is to train and improve itself. These people are not aware of all of the Army's tasks today. Above all, the Army must build, train, and be prepared to fight and win. The Army, together with all the people, must smash the new plots and stratagems of the enemy. The Army must not only thoroughly understand and implement the lines and policies of the party and state within the Army, but must also participate, together with the localities in which troops are stationed, in propagandizing the lines and viewpoints of the party and in opposing the enemy's viewpoints, the erroneous viewpoints of the reactionaries, including a number of overseas Vietnamese reactionaries and people who have disguised themselves as religious people, and other deviations wherever they appear. Together with the public security forces, the Army must spread propaganda and mobilize the people to defend the party, protect the state dictatorship of the proletariat, defend socialism, isolate the enemy, and, when necessary, participate in suppressing diehard groups and their leaders. With such heavy tasks, if the cadres and soldiers do not have good political quality and cannot manifest the tradition of "Uncle Ho's soldiers," it will be difficult for them to complete the tasks given them by the party and people in an outstanding way. The Army has learned many valuable lessons in educating and training cadres and soldiers in wartime and peacetime, in combat, and in building the Army. That is a firm foundation on which we can base our trust in the Army. But it must be realized that the circumstances and conditions for carrying on party and political work are different from in the past. In war, the cadres and soldiers live in trenches and share the same emotional and psychological conditions. But today, there is a wide gap between the cadres and soldiers. Furthermore, today's soldiers are young. They have cultural standards and are enthusiastic and diligent. They are often very sensitive to the current situation. Few of today's soldiers or detachment cadres have even been in combat. They are easily influenced by negative social phenomena. Thus, the party and political work methods must be renovated in accord with the new situation in order to achieve good results.

Footnotes

1. Excerpted from a draft of the "Program To Build Socialism During the Transitional Period."
2. Nguyen Van Linh, "Solidify Peace, Heighten Vigilance, and Exploit the Integrated Strength in Order To Defend the Fatherland," QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN, December 1989, p. 4.

3. Nguyen Van Linh, "The People's Army in Our People's Socialist Renovation Campaign," QUOC PHONG TOAN DAN, No. 8-9, 1990, p. 7.

All-Military Conference Discusses Economic Tasks

912E0142B Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 27 Feb 91 p 1

[Text] An all-military economic conference was held in Hanoi on 25 and 26 February. The heads of the general departments, branches of service, military regions, military economic installations in the north, and representatives from the party and state departments and sectors concerned attended the conference. Also attending were Sr. Lt. Gen. Dao Dinh Luyen, vice minister of national defense; and Vu Quang, deputy head of the Economic Department of the Central Committee.

The report given by Lt. Gen. Phan Thu, director of the National Defense Industry and Economics General Department, stated: Last year, even though there were many difficulties, national defense production and economic activities of the entire military made notable progress on all fronts as compared with 1989. In the sphere of the economic accounting units, profits reached 24 billion dong. More than 19 billion dong was contributed to the budget, exceeding the plan. This was an increase of 10-20 percent as compared with last year. Coal mining achieved results and earned large revenues. Now that the confusion in coal mining operations and business in Quang Ninh, which was caused by a number of centers not having sufficient practice in coal mining and business operations, has been eliminated, the situation has returned to normal, and the units are operating well.

These results have contributed to providing better support for national defense production tasks, contributed small amounts to the state and national defense budgets, helped handle social policies, and, in particular, created a basis for expanding the economic tasks of the military.

However, in reality, the activities at a number of production installations and military units engaged in economic activities have exposed a number of shortcomings that must be corrected and a number of problems that must be solved.

In 1991, implementing Directive 313 of the minister of defense, the national defense production and economic activities of the entire military must overcome many difficulties and confront major challenges. The target is to have the national defense enterprises fulfill the plans, vary the economic products, and expand business forms in order to maintain their capabilities and ranks and contribute to making more products available to society. The units that are located in strategic positions and that are actively participating in production are contributing to maintaining the living conditions of the troops, setting long-term guidelines for building the locations, forming a basis for setting guidelines and assigning military

forces to engage in economic work, ensuring that contributions are made to national defense and the state, and ensuring that the forces engaged in economic work really participate in balancing the budget or material resources of the military.

In order to hit the targets and fulfill the tasks, the representatives contributed many ideas, discussed the real situation and problems, and offered solutions to the problems. Among these were ideas on establishing a mechanism to manage national defense production and military economic activities. Those at the conference all agreed that it is essential to establish a new management mechanism that is in accord with the laws and that manifests the special nature of national defense production and military economic activities.

Quang Ninh Province Maintains Security at Sea

912E0143C Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 1 Mar 91 p 2

[Article by Nguyen Quang Vinh]

[Text] Quang Ninh Province is located in the north-eastern part of the fatherland. Its mainland border extends for more than 130 kilometers, and its coastline runs for more than 200 km. Bai Tu Long and Ha Long Bays, which are quite famous, are located in this province. The province also has two large international ports.

The province has more than 6,000 islands of various sizes. In 1989 and at the beginning of 1990, in the coastal areas and on the islands of the province, order and security were very complicated in many places. There were cases of bartering, gambling, robbery and theft, and murder.

Implementing Council of Ministers Directive 135, along with reestablishing order on the mainland and along the border, Quang Ninh has concentrated its efforts on gradually reestablishing order at sea and has achieved a number of initial results.

In 1990, together with the border forces and the sectors concerned of the province and of Cam Pha, Hai Ninh, and Quang Ha districts, the Quang Ninh Provincial CPV Committee, the Provincial People's Committee, and the domestic affairs sectors of the province and districts visited the locations where crimes have frequently been committed in order to study the situation and implement appropriate measures and to designate places where Chinese and Hong Kong ships will be allowed to make purchases and fish in conjunction with Vietnamese fishermen.

The province's border forces, that is, the border posts on the islands, are coordinating things closely with the island villages in order to control the means [of transportation] of each locality, and they issuing operating permits for each zone. The provincial border command has sent a number of cadres to the coastal districts and villages and border zones in order to register and control

transport passing through the border zone. Thanks to this, control of transport in the Quang Ninh coastal area has become firmer and firmer and more orderly.

With permission of the Council of Ministers, Quang Ninh has organized four points where Chinese and Hong Kong ships can purchase marine products and exchange commodities at sea. Before entering those locations, the ships must register and undergo inspection by the border posts. Boats along the coast and on the islands that want to exchange commodities with the foreign ships and foreigners must report to and register at the nearest border post. Border forces must organize mobile sea forces to inspect the people and ships passing through the border zone. Such inspections have led to the discovery of 130 cases and the prosecution of 456 people who violated the border zone regulations. Twelve ships and 48 people were intentionally trading in smuggled goods, including goods being smuggled into the country and goods being smuggled to China. More than 100 tons of rice, 30 tons of resin, 50 tons of glass, several dozen tons of other contraband, and hundreds of millions of dong have been recovered for the state. Eight foreign ships violated the fishing and marine products purchasing agreement. Border posts 24, 16, 4, 20, and 8 and the border flotillas that regularly carry on operations in various locations have divided the work and formulated plans to deal with any situation.

With the close guidance of the Quang Ninh Provincial CPV Committee and the People's Committee, with the close cooperation of the various units, that is, Group H42 (Military Region 3), naval forces, and the domestic affairs sectors of the province and localities, and with the help of the local people, Quang Ninh has gradually reestablished order at sea. A number of criminals have been dealt with severely, and this has had a good educational effect. The Quang Ninh border forces have done an excellent job in carrying out their task as the activist forces in maintaining security at sea.

Border Forces Crack Down on Smuggling

912E0143B Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 1 Mar 91 p 2

[Article by Huy Thiem]

[Text] According to preliminary reports of local border forces, from the beginning of August to the end of October 1990, the units arrested 90 cross-border smugglers, seized 16 ships that were smuggling goods by sea, and recovered 32.5 tons of copper, 250 tons of iron and steel, 161 tons of sugar, 5,000 kegs of beer, 2,000 cartons of foreign cigarettes, 175 kilograms of tin, 140 table fans, 45 tons of resin, 278 engines, 487 tons of cement, 92.125 million dong, and many commodities, large sums of foreign currency, precious stones, and antiques worth billions of dong.

The above data show that the struggle against cross-border smuggling in our country is very complex and heated. In recent years, there have been times when the

main task of the border forces has been to fight smuggling, particularly since the chairman of the Council of Ministers issued the decision establishing the Anti-Smuggling Committee and Directive 278 on fighting the smuggling of foreign cigarettes into the country and their circulation on domestic markets.

Along with the very basic things that have been achieved, the process of guiding and organizing the implementation of this new task has exposed the limitations of the border forces. The most striking weakness is that the task of opposing smuggling along the borders has not been tied to opposing internal smuggling. This has limited the discovery and pursuit of smuggling organizations and major smuggling routes.

Most of the smugglers who have been caught by the border forces have been caught red-handed along the border. They were caught during patrols and inspections. There has not been any reconnaissance to get to the root of the smuggling routes. The cross-border smugglers always work closely with internal smugglers. The transportation of commodities across the border by importing goods and distributing goods domestically is the cover that is used by smugglers.

Furthermore, the targets of smuggling in our country today are not just professional smugglers, but also various echelons of economic elements, sectors, armed forces, and so on. According to a review by the Anti-Smuggling Committee, the number of smugglers posing as members of collective or state organizations accounted for approximately 68 percent of the cross-border smugglers arrested in 1990.

Their modes of operation are very clever. They make use of the loopholes in economic and currency management and of loose state documents and look for ways to bribe cadres and government officials. They use various legal documents to move back and forth across the border. They conceal commodities on people or aboard trucks and ships. They also hire war invalids and demobilized soldiers who are familiar with the locality to escort the commodities and put pressure on the control forces so that they won't discover and seize the goods.

Recently, along the northern border, the arrest of a gang of smugglers led to the discovery of a new stratagem. They abandoned the commodities, but also planted mines and grenades in order to try to kill the inspection forces.

So that the anti-smuggling campaign achieves results, according to the minister of internal affairs, the border forces must renovate their understanding in defending the border. Reality has shown that foreign spies are using smuggling operations to take over operations. Thus, the border forces who are fighting smuggling are also fighting political crimes and espionage activities. Because our country is now expanding trade activities with other countries, the anti-smuggling task of the border forces is becoming more and more important.

The border forces must coordinate things closely with the Army, public security forces, Navy, and market management units and formulate concrete and detailed plans to oppose smuggling. Only by doing this will it be possible to exploit the strength of the forces of the dictatorship in order to discover the various activities of the smugglers, from gathering goods within the country to transporting goods across the border. If the forces do not coordinate things and if the smuggling routes within the country are not closed down, it will not be possible to limit smuggling at the border.

In the struggle against smuggling, the border forces must play an active role, actively coordinate things with the other forces, rely on the masses, and carry on reconnaissance and inspection activities and discover cases within the country. The professional capabilities of the border cadres and troops must be improved gradually. At the same time, if we are to bring about a change in the struggle against smuggling in accord with the new situation and tasks, much attention must be given to strengthening the political abilities and improving the revolutionary qualities of these cadres and troops.

Along with blocking and prosecuting cadres and soldiers who have engaged in negative activities and covered up for smugglers, rewards (both material and spiritual) must be given to those units and individuals who have participated in anti-smuggling operations and achieved good results.

Desertion Problem Continues

912E0142A Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN
in Vietnamese 26 Feb 91 p 2

[Article by Pham Minh Thanh, Group B. 01, Capital Military Region]

[Text] The Military Draft Law has been in effect for more than eight years now, but desertion continues to be a problem. The deserters have weakened the combat strength of the units and stirred up trouble in society. (In 1990, of the 21 criminals arrested by the 47th Regiment, Military Inspection, Capital Military Region, 95 percent were deserters.) This is something about which everyone must be concerned.

The main reason for this is that a number of localities and units have not given attention to the quality of the recruits. In 1990, some of the youths recruited into the military had criminal records. It is these people who become the "activists" and who are responsible for other soldiers having shortcomings, violating discipline, and deserting.

The units, particularly the primary units (platoons, companies, and battalions) have not done a good job in controlling the troops, providing them with political and ideological education, training them, or looking after their material and spiritual lives. They have not taught the soldiers their obligations, rights, and responsibilities. There have also been many manifestations of militarism,

violence, and paternalism. Standards have been lowered, and people have been sent to "engage in economic activities" to bring in money. When Cadres from E. 692, Group B. 01, Capital Military Region, went to visit soldiers' families, they found 28 deserters, and 25 percent of these said that they had deserted because the cadres were too militaristic. They said that the cadres did not pay any attention to their lives, looked down on them, and had soldiers go bring in money. Soldiers also desert because their families are poor and have no money coming in.

Another factor that is just as important is the family. Many families have helped their children desert. Some families have even encouraged their children to desert. The village and subward authorities have not taken resolute action against deserters as they did during the war against the United States. The district and city military organizations have assembled deserters, but they have not educated them or returned them to their units. They have just forced them to engage in reform labor such as laying bricks, doing carpentry work, burning lime, digging ponds, and so on, based on the quotas. If the work is completed, the deserters are issued honorable discharge papers. This unintentionally encourages people to desert.

The law is not enforced resolutely. The Military Draft Law was enacted in 1982. In December 1990, the Military Region 3 court tried a soldier in Hai Phong and sentenced him to prison. He had been drafted during Phase 1, 1990, and had deserted four times. That is the only such case that has been tried since this law was enacted. Drafting a law is difficult. But having laws and then not enforcing them just causes difficulties. We must implement the slogan "act in accord with the law" in order to restore discipline in this sphere.

If people everywhere are educated about the Military Draft Law, from families to village and subward authorities, and the ward and district military organizations, units, and legal organizations clearly understand the reasons and their responsibilities and coordinate activities, this will certainly bring an end to desertion.

ECONOMIC

International Telecom Network Under Construction

BK1604085891 Hanoi VNA in English 0610 GMT
19 Apr 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 19—An international telecommunication switchboard named "Axe 103" is being built in Ho Chi Minh City jointly by the International Telecommunication Centre and the Australian OTC company.

The centre contributes more than two billion Vietnam Dong to the construction of the premise, and OTC invests 1.5 million U.S. Dollars in equipment.

The Axe 103 switchboard will be linked with the two ground-satellite stations in the city, and all inter-provincial switchboards. It will make full use of the capacity of more than 500 communication lines of the ground-satellite stations. Axe 103 will also provide other services such as IDD and fax.

The project will be put into operation in the last quarter of this year.

'Urgent Need' To Obtain Operating Capital

912E0146A Ho Chi Minh City SAIGON GIAI PHONG
in Vietnamese 4 Mar 91 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "From the 15th Municipal Party Committee Conference Resolution—Capital for Production, Business Remains Urgent Need"]

[Text] In 1991, in order to achieve industrial growth of 7 percent or more the municipality must have more than 2,000 billion dong. The matter—satisfying the need for capital—was thus classified by the 15th Municipal Party Organization Conference among the 10 main tasks to be performed. This matter of satisfying the need for capital was put in its resolution as follows: "Let us take the necessary measures to fully control and manage the use of the municipality's existing capital (including foreign currencies); organize correct and total collection of payments from all sources for the budget; and have plans for distribution and use of capital in order to obtain great economic and social results."

That is the general spirit of leadership. How about actual work? The realities of production and business in the municipality indicate that, in order to have such large capital, we must achieve balance—overall balance at many levels and from many sources. Balance is to be maintained all the way from the level of macrocosmic management to that of central, municipal, and basic-level economic units (microcosmic level). As to the sources, capital can come from the budget, credit borrowed from banks, self-supplied capital, contributions from the people, loans from foreign countries, or foreign capital put into joint enterprises.

Currently, almost all units loudly claim that they are short of capital. In fact, capital shortage is a real phenomenon. But theoretically speaking, it reflects a contradiction: Since our economy is now still in an inflationary stage, with the rate of inflation about 7.8 percent per month according to a reliable document, there should be no shortage of money while inflation existed. Was it because of obstruction in the supply and circulation of money? This is a matter that needs explanation at the microcosmic level.

Here we mention only a number of measures that can be taken to mobilize capital and their effectiveness. The amount of money that remains in the people's hands is quite large and is being turned into gold or precious and

rare commodities, which they can keep without worrying about loss of value. If the state has rational policies that offer advantages to those who have money and can, first of all, guarantee the safety of their money, this source of money will certainly spring back from its present death and flow into the production and business sector. Proof of this was the fact that the people deposited 800 billion dong in their credit cooperative accounts in 1990. It was regrettable that those 800 billion dong did not go into production so as to create new and real value, but instead they were moved about in business activities that were conducted in the "grab-and-snatch" style and were later discovered, and adverse consequences remain unresolved even now.

Let us remind ourselves that in 1990 many people, attracted by the monthly interest rates of 12 and 9 percent, deposited large sums of money in credit cooperative accounts without realizing that they could have bought stocks from some enterprises, such as the Municipal Pharmaceutical Products and Materials Enterprise, which did more successful business and paid interest rates higher than 12 percent while guaranteeing the safety of their money.

To mobilize capital to sell stocks first to cadres, workers, and civil servants of economic units and to extend the selling to others under better conditions later is a way of doing things that is within our reach. It not only satisfies the need for capital, but also closely links the economic interests of cadres, workers, and civil servants with their units, and thereby heightens the responsibility of each and every individual toward the enterprise.

To borrow capital from foreign countries is also a way to resolve the capital problem. But the realities in the last few years showed that to borrow capital from foreign countries, even with low interest rates, would require very careful calculations as to how to operate and in what sector to invest so as to make capital turnaround faster, to get good results, and particularly to reobtain foreign currencies in order to make loan payments under the conditions of inflation and fast decrease of value of our currency. Many corporations are now in serious trouble because loan payments are due. The safe and effective way to operate as currently adopted by a number of units is to attract foreign companies' capital into joint enterprises where they will share both profits and losses.

The question of having capital for production and business as it existed in 1990 remains for us a problem to be solved. Our capital potential has not yet been fully exploited. With correct policies and correct ways of doing things, the sources of capital are "lying" among the people, in economic units, even in foreign countries, and are waiting to be awakened and to flow into production and business. As a leading official of the municipality correctly said, "We must know how to resolve the question of economic balances by means of correct policies."